

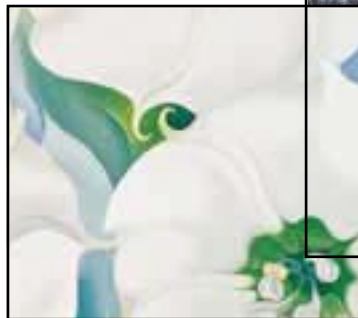
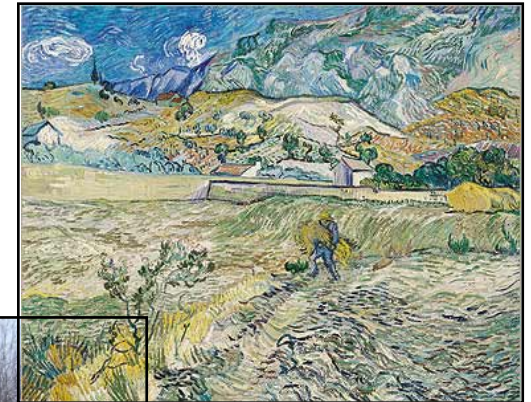
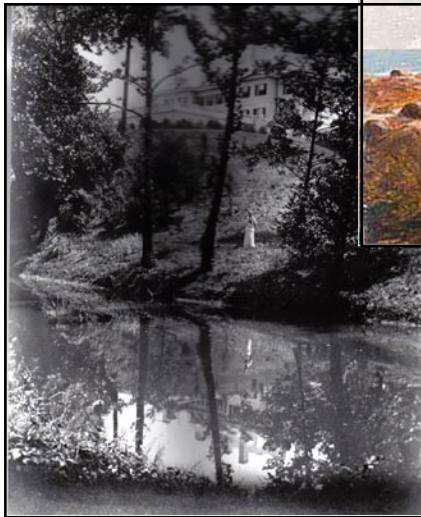
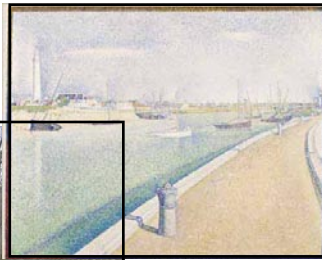
# *Nature Refining Art*

Indianapolis Museum of Art

**Art & Nature Park**

INDY PARKS Greenways

*Central Canal Towpath*



Mark A. Dobbs  
5th Year LA Comprehensive Project  
Department of Landscape Architecture  
College of Architecture and Planning



# ***Nature Refining Art***

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Indianapolis Museum of Art  
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***Central Canal Towpath***

*Mark A. Dobbs*  
*LA\_404 Comprehensive Project*  
*Department of Landscape Architecture*  
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*Ball State University*

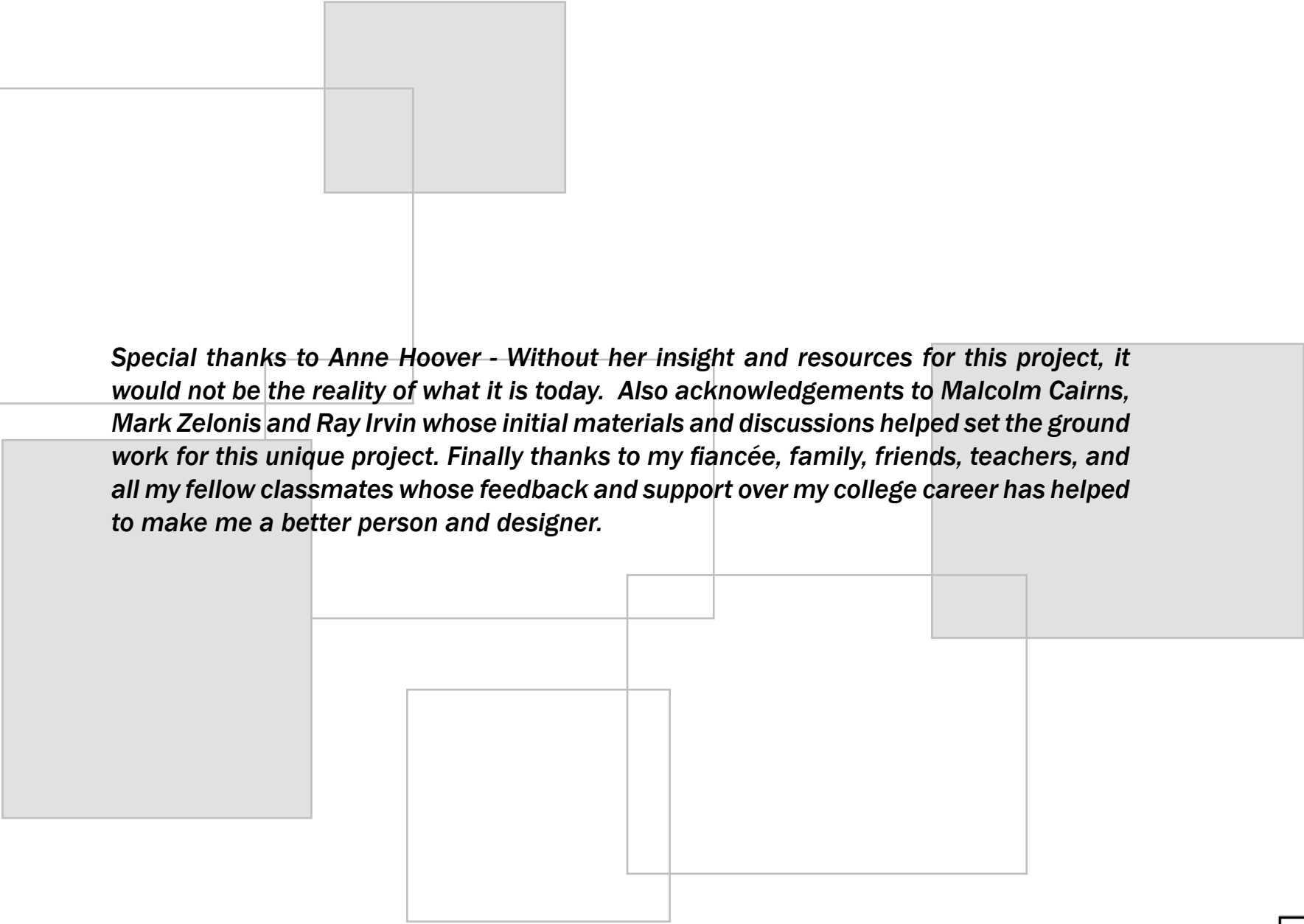
*Course Instructor: Anne Hoover*  
*Faculty Advisor: Joseph Blalock*

*Professional Consultants:*  
*Mark Zelonis - IMA Grounds/Gardens Director*  
*Ray R. Irvin - Indy Greenways Director*

*Submitted: April 2005*







***Special thanks to Anne Hoover - Without her insight and resources for this project, it would not be the reality of what it is today. Also acknowledgements to Malcolm Cairns, Mark Zelonis and Ray Irvin whose initial materials and discussions helped set the ground work for this unique project. Finally thanks to my fiancée, family, friends, teachers, and all my fellow classmates whose feedback and support over my college career has helped to make me a better person and designer.***

# Table of Contents



Title Page .....	i
Acknowledgements .....	iii
Table of Contents .....	iv-v
Project Abstract: Definition & Problem .....	vi
Introduction:	
Site Location .....	1
Greenway Context .....	2-3
Site Adjacencies .....	4-5
Geographic Context .....	6
Site History and Background .....	7-9
Site Inventory and Analysis:	
Flood Condition and Mapping .....	10
Site Features and Viewsheds .....	11-13
Natural Inventory .....	14
Cultural Inventory .....	15
Site Analysis and Inventory .....	16
Character Section Studies .....	17-19
Project Programming	
Project Vision and Objectives .....	20
Site Programming .....	21
Case Studies .....	22-24
Project Planning Considerations and Assumptions	
Planning Considerations .....	25
Master Planning Assumptions .....	26-27

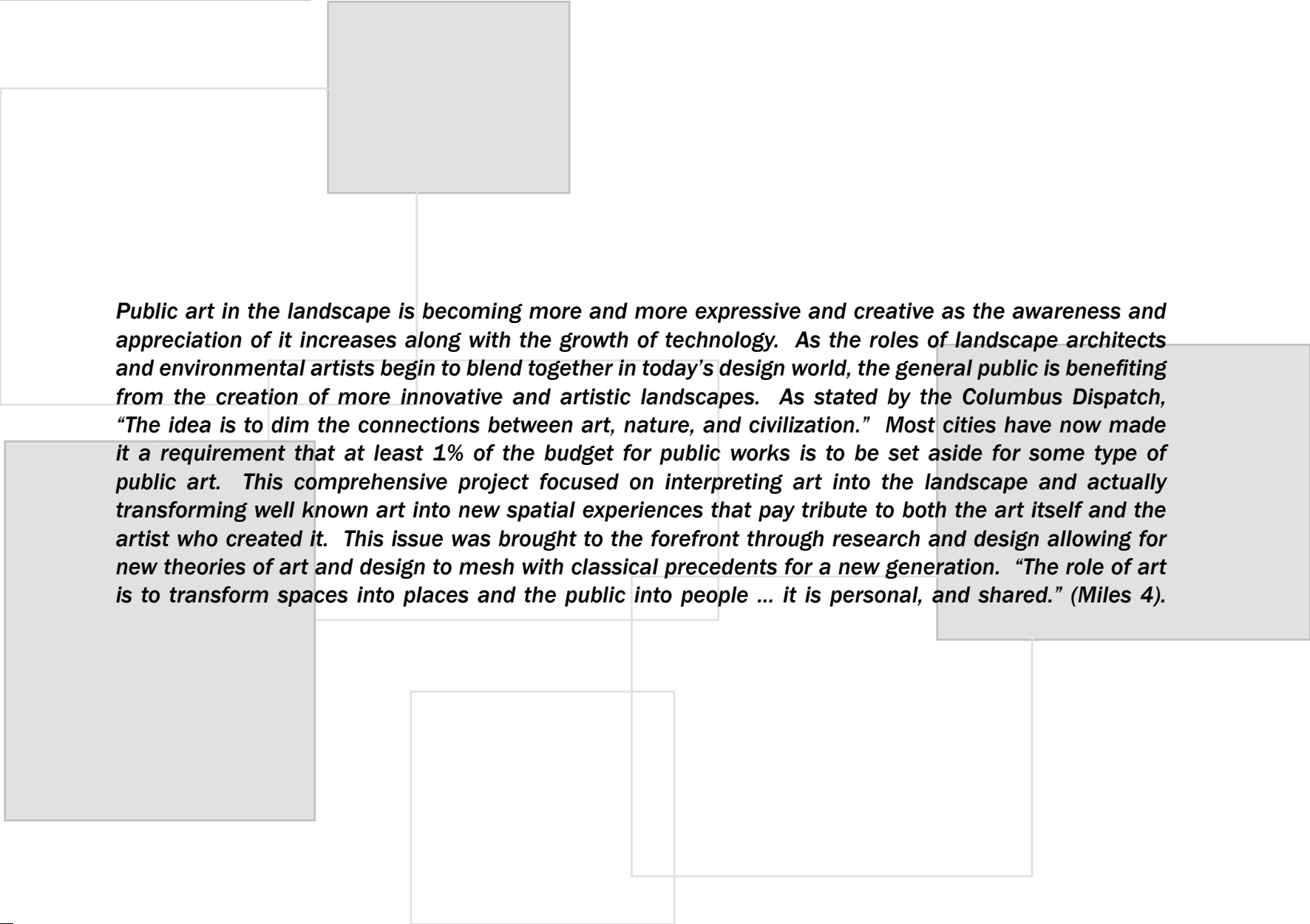
# Table of Contents

Conceptual Design	
Conceptual Planning .....	28
Nature Concept .....	29
Art Concept .....	30
Trail Concept .....	31
Schematic Design	
Schematic Planning - Art Selection .....	32-33
Schematic Master Plan .....	34
Design Development	
Panorama Study of Detailed Area .....	35
Monet Wetland Plan .....	36
Monet Wetland Perspective .....	37
Monet Wetland Sections .....	38
Van Gogh Meadow / Homer Overlook Plan .....	39
Homer Overlook Perspective .....	40
Van Gogh Meadow Perspective .....	41
Mosaic Wall Detail .....	42
Meadow / Overlook Section .....	43
Trailhead Plan .....	44
Trailhead Perspective .....	45
Trailhead Section .....	46
Conclusion .....	47
Comprehensive Bibliography	
Research Bibliography .....	48-49



# Project Abstract

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*Public art in the landscape is becoming more and more expressive and creative as the awareness and appreciation of it increases along with the growth of technology. As the roles of landscape architects and environmental artists begin to blend together in today's design world, the general public is benefiting from the creation of more innovative and artistic landscapes. As stated by the Columbus Dispatch, "The idea is to dim the connections between art, nature, and civilization." Most cities have now made it a requirement that at least 1% of the budget for public works is to be set aside for some type of public art. This comprehensive project focused on interpreting art into the landscape and actually transforming well known art into new spatial experiences that pay tribute to both the art itself and the artist who created it. This issue was brought to the forefront through research and design allowing for new theories of art and design to mesh with classical precedents for a new generation. "The role of art is to transform spaces into places and the public into people ... it is personal, and shared." (Miles 4).*

# Site Location



**Proposed Project Site:**  
**Indianapolis Museum of**  
**Art & INDY Greenways**  
**Central Canal Towpath**



*IMA Entry Court - Prior to Recent Expansion*

## Introduction & Location

The location of my proposed comprehensive project is in Indianapolis, IN at the Indianapolis Museum of Art - 38th and Michigan Road. It is here that the Central Canal Towpath runs by the Indianapolis Museum of Art and the Indianapolis Water Company Canal in the northwestern art district of the city. This location, along with the water canal, separates the IMA and Lilly House from the proposed Art and Nature Park project, funded by IMA, which will be developed in the woodland area east of the White River to the trail. This project will create an art and landscape experience that utilizes sequential space planning with movement while actually transposing art into the landscape in places along the Central Canal Towpath and in the Art & Nature Park. It is the intention of this project to blend together and unify these spaces so that users of the IMA, Central Canal Towpath, and new Art and Nature Park will be interacting with one another in this celebratory space of art and the natural environment. By having many diverse residential neighborhoods, several higher education institutions like Butler University and the Christian Seminary College, and numerous cultural and recreational nodes, the IMA Art & Nature Park will be able to add to the context and draw many users and influences from its surroundings.



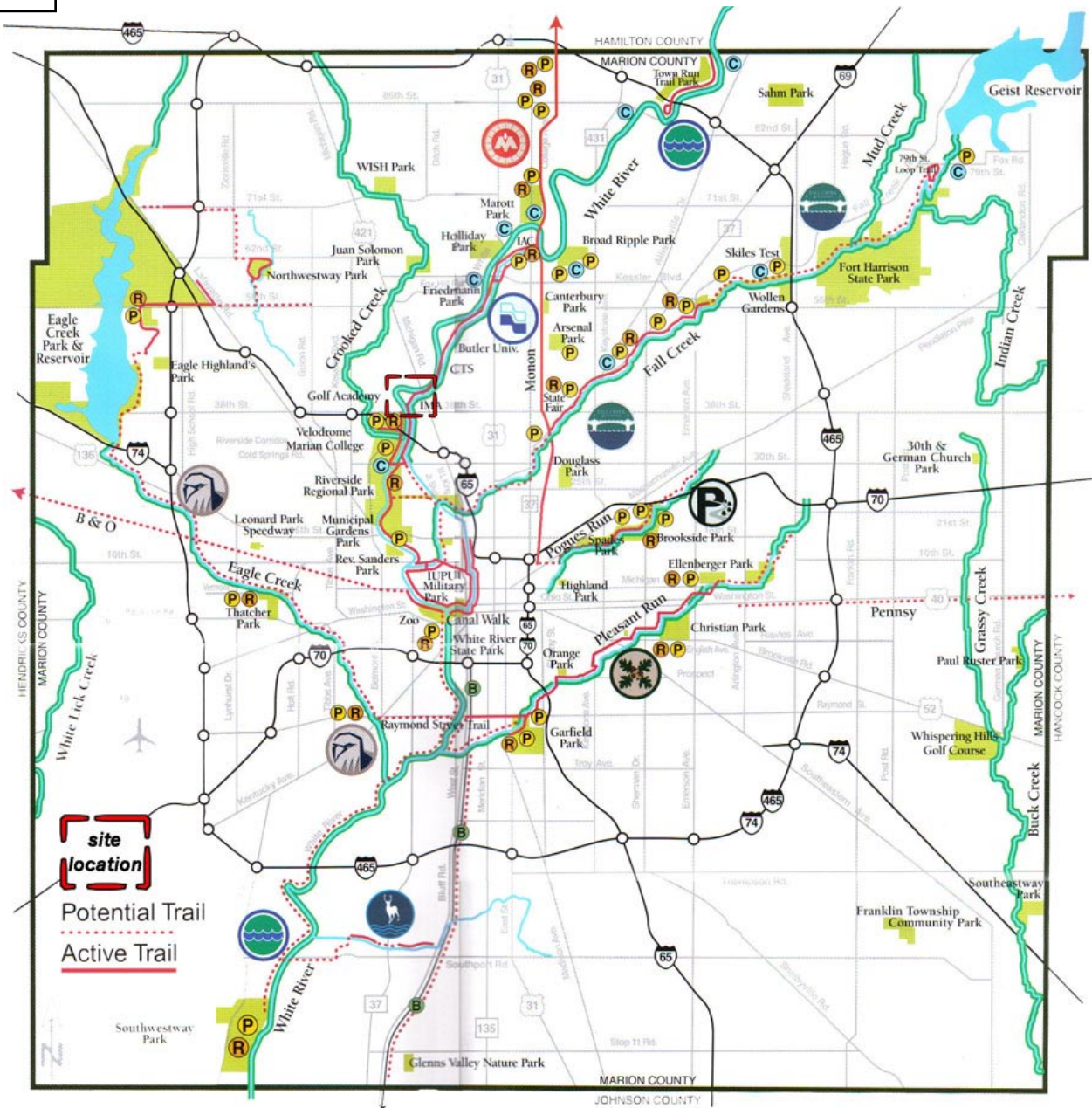
# INDY Greenways Context

## An Overview of the Indianapolis Greenways System

The trail corridors that have been developed over the past decade have all come from flood plains or floodways as well as abandoned railway corridors. Since the city didn't allow development along the majority of rivers and waterways, they now can be used as linear connectors to numerous nodes and destinations throughout the city and county. With help of the Department of Metropolitan Development as well as the Department of Public Works, just about all water corridors have been given to the Parks Department and Greenways Division for development of linear parks and urban conservation.

The Indianapolis Greenways System has now over 6,000 acres of trails on over 200 miles of linear space. 65 miles of trails exist in the greenways network with over 100 miles either in the planning stage or about to be constructed in the very near future. Destinations for the trails include hundreds of Indianapolis neighborhoods, over 55 parks, schools, museums, the zoo, art parks, and multiple universities.

The most successful trail in the Indy Greenways system is the Monon Trail which extends 10





# INDY Greenways Context

miles from the north side of downtown up through Hamilton County. The greenway was developed from an abandon railway and now has become not only a recreational outlet, but a basis for economic development for the surrounding neighborhoods. The Monon has set the standard for others to follow in Marion County and has spawned so many other corridor trails along rivers and streams to produce what is now an essential recreation and transportation asset to the city. Many loops have been created with the use of multiple trail systems in the network. From this people can exercise as well as have an alternative means of getting around to their destinations all while improving the quality of life for the city and its citizens in the process.



Monon Trail Corridor

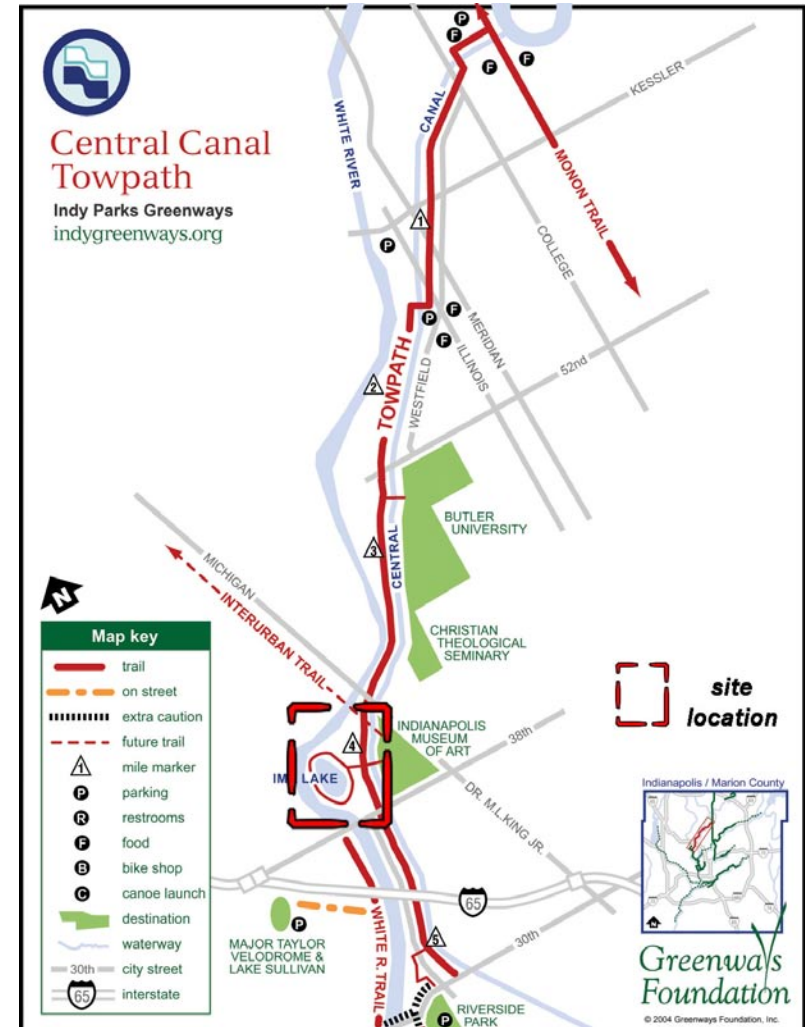


Central Canal Towpath

## Central Canal Towpath

The Central Canal Towpath is one of the most historic trails in the Indy Greenways. It was first established back in 1836 as a strolling path near the waterway. It now is a modern day revival being a little over 5 miles in length and catering to the overwhelming 2.3 million users that use the Indy Greenways and its loop systems of trails. The trail has two restored 19th century bridges to boost along its crushed limestone pathway and is a linear connection to all the cultural based

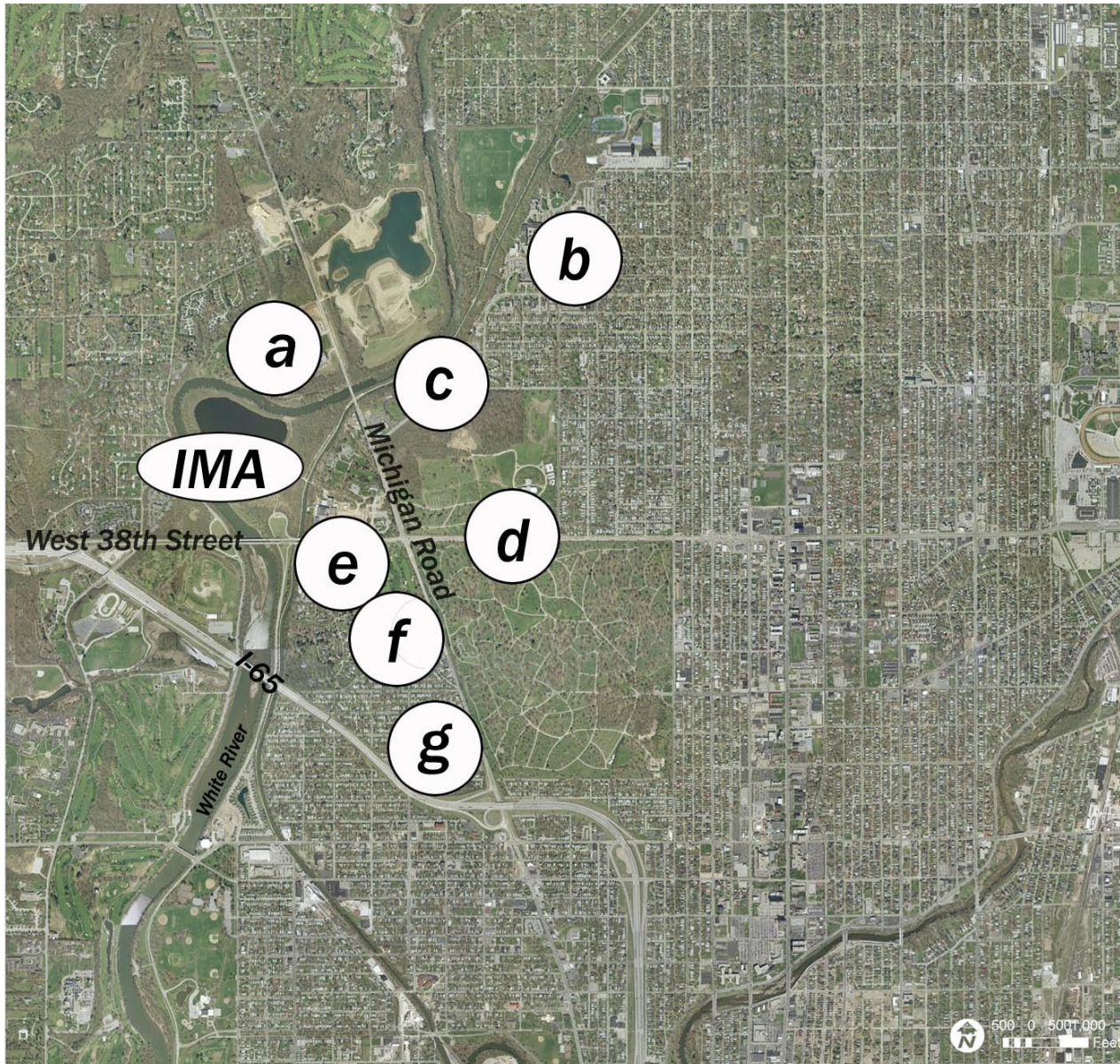
destinations in this area. It also acts as a loop trail with the Monon Trail on the north terminus in the Broad Ripple Village and the White River Greenway to the south connecting to the downtown. In between these destinations lies



of course the Indianapolis Museum of Art and its campus, two large educational institutions consisting of Butler University and the Christian Theological Seminary, as well as numerous pocket parks and neighborhood connections



## Site Adjacencies



**The International School of Indiana**

An educational institution that consists of grades Pre-K through 12th grade. There is a main focus of foreign language study and an emphasis on diversity through multi-cultural education. The school is within walking distance of the IMA.



**Butler University**

Butler is located north of the IMA along the White River. With its connection to the Indy Greenways, it is a large public institution that can utilize the museum facilities easily.



## Site Adjacencies



**Christian Theological Seminary**

*A religious institution that offers many degrees in ministry. The spacious campus east of IMA invokes many student ages.*



**Woodstock Club**

*A small private nine hole golf course located just south across 38th street. One of many golf courses near the IMA project site.*



**Clifton Neighborhood Housing:**

*Clifton is a low-end housing neighborhood that consists of many depreciated homes set on very small lots next to each other. Much of this depression can be blamed due to the construction of Interstate I-65 that divides the community from the downtown Indy area. This area is still strongly connected to both a park and access to the Central Canal Towpath - Indy Greenways.*



**Crown Hill Cemetery**

*A historic landmark, this 550 acre cemetery draws many visitors from mourners to student field trips. Many famous Hoosiers are buried here, including James Whitcomb Riley along with many state and military memories as well. Its adjacency to the IMA enhances the rich context around the site*



**Bertha Ross Neighborhood Park:**

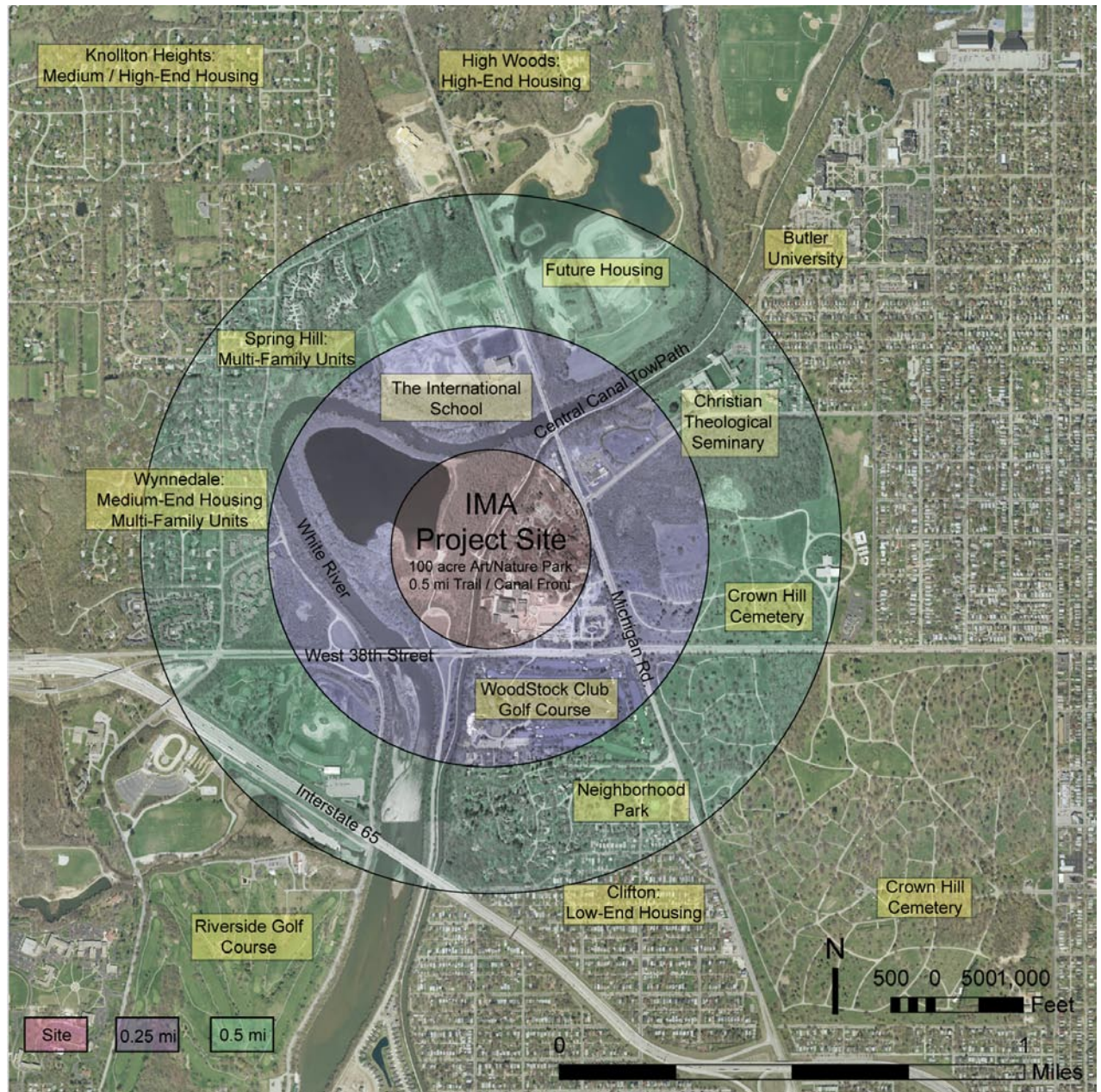
*One of many neighborhood parks in the Indy Park System, this park contains a playground area plus ball fields for active recreation.*



# Geographic Context

## Distance Analysis of Context

The diagrammatic image on the right-hand side is an analytical study looking at the more immediate context around the IMA site. Each study ring is displayed at a quarter mile apart so one can view what in terms of distance is directly linked to the site. Also the Central Canal Towpath bisects this study and reveals how the large nodes in the surrounding area connect with the Indianapolis Museum of Art. In the first quarter mile perimeter three contextual influences exist with the International School of Indiana to the north, the historic Crown Hill Cemetery to the southeast and a nine-hole golf course, the Woodstock Club, to the direct south. Other contextual factors in the half-mile sector out include a large religious development and seminary and a neighborhood park that is nestled to the south and encompassing some of the lower-end housing. Much of the northern area from the IMA will be developed into high-end housing like what is currently there. Butler University situated along White River north of the IMA will be another great education link to the site along the Central Canal Towpath.





# Site History & Background

## **A Brief Historic Timeline of the Project Site:**

**[1831-1901]** Farmer Mooney Purchased 141.96 Acres of uplands and lowlands next to the White River - Agricultural use. Foley farmstead and farm house existent.

**[1883]** 3.3 acre right-of-way given for development of the Interurban Railway.

**[1907]** Hugh Landon, secretary of the Indianapolis Water Company, bought the land for development of a reservoir and canal system. Also the high-end residential development of Woodstock was laid out for lots and country estates.

**[1912]** Landon Mansion and Estate built overlooking the Water Company Canal. Inclusion of bridge over the Interurban tracks as well as benches and scattered gardens.

**[1920-1927]** (Olmstead Firm) Percival Gallagher's master planning for the Landon estate - "Oldfields". Ravine garden, axial allees, entries, formal garden, and constructed views

**[1932-1978]** Estate sold to the Lily Family. Mansion renovated and the estate expanded to encompass the majority

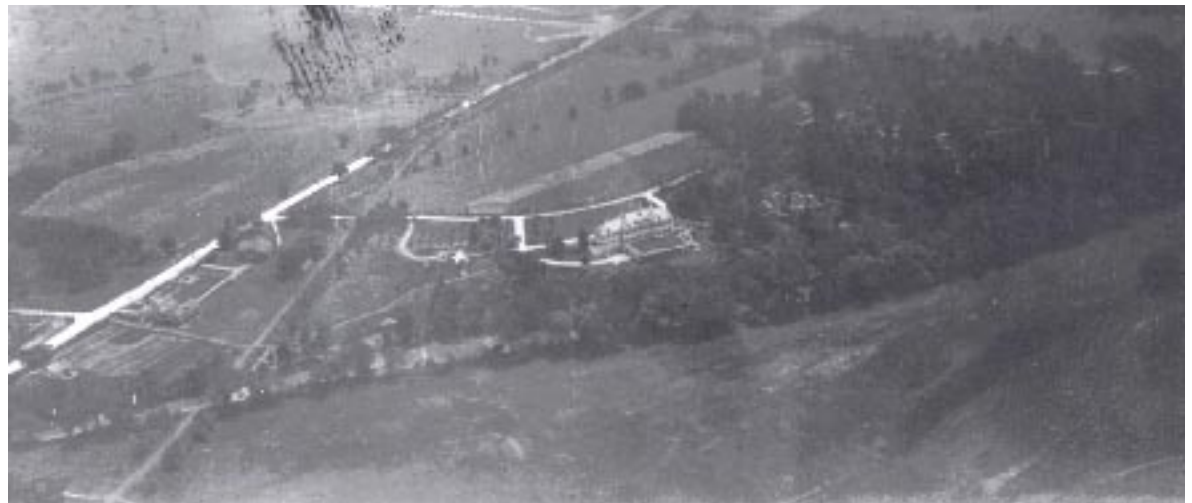
**[1966-1970]** Estate given to the Art Association with the development of an art museum to be built on site (IMA).

**[1978]** Estate grounds dedicated the Eli Lilly Botanical Garden by the Indianapolis Museum of Art.

**[2005]** IMA Expansion & Revised Site Plan to create more gallery space inside and out with the addition of several new wings, a new lobby and an elegant dining facility. Master planning and selection of the architects to design the Virginia B. Fairbanks Art & Nature Park.

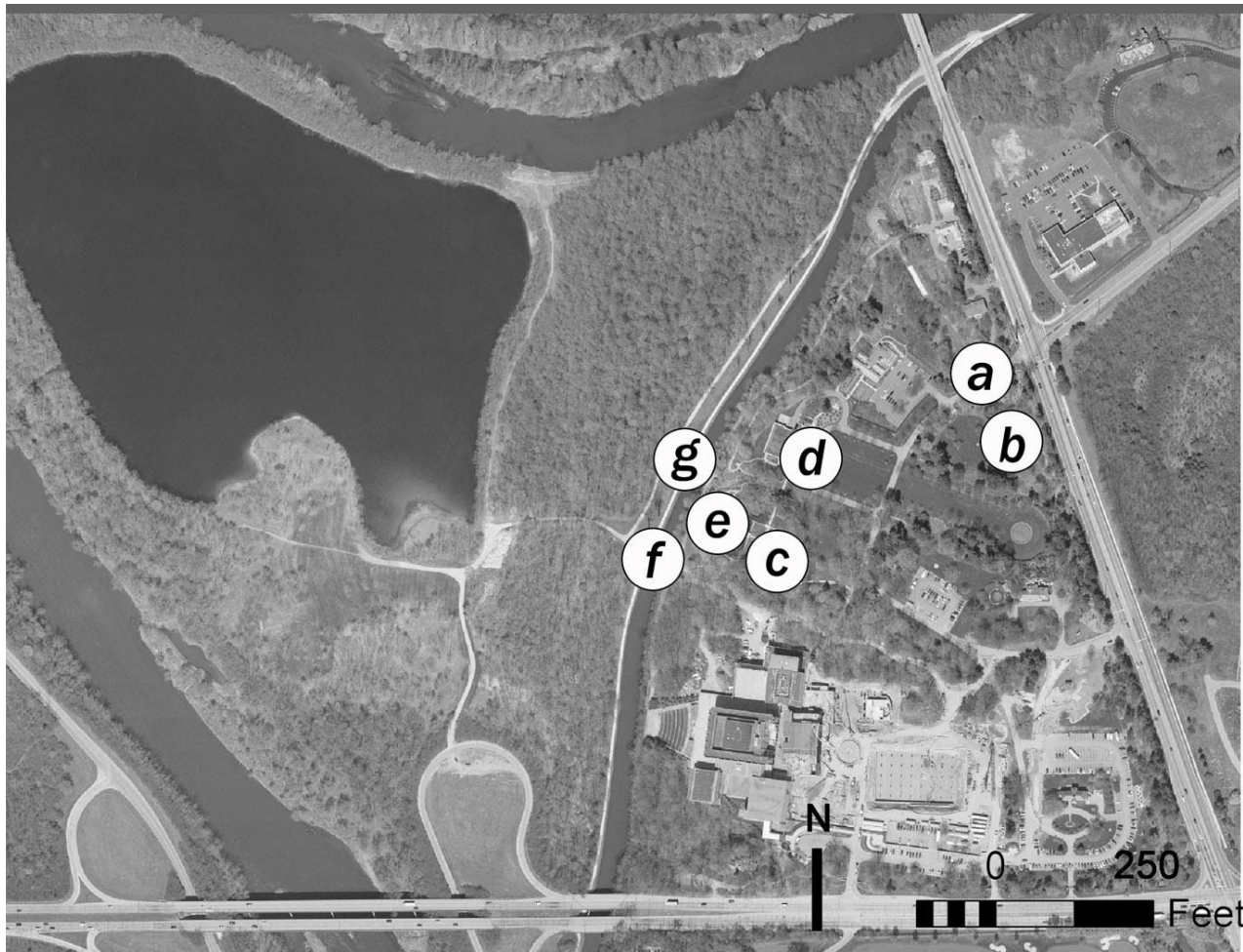


1920s - The Ravine Pools - Gallagher Design



Early 1900s Aerial Photograph of the Landon Estate and Grounds

## Site History & Background



**Historic Steel/Iron Bridge**

*Built during the 1912 development of the Landon Estate to span across the Interurban Tracks.*



**Interurban Trolley System**

*Developed in 1883 for the purpose of transporting the upperclass country estate residents into the downtown. The ravine where the tracks used to be still exists on the "OldFields" site and runs to the river.*



## Site History & Background



**Formal Garden/Rose Garden**

*First designed when the Landon Estate was built, the formal garden was redesigned by Gallagher. The divided square is nestled on the southside of the house and is in direct axis of the side entry.*



**Ravine Garden - Gallagher Design**

*This garden was designed during the 1920-1927 masterplanning effort by Gallagher as a sequential experience leading down to the canal and planned with the idea of a wilderness atmosphere.*



**Central Canal Towpath**

*Used for strolling along the canal during the early 1900s, it now exists today as part of the Indy Greenways. The towpath offers elegant views up to the Lilly House and the gardens along the hillside.*



**Landon/Lilly Mansion & Estate**

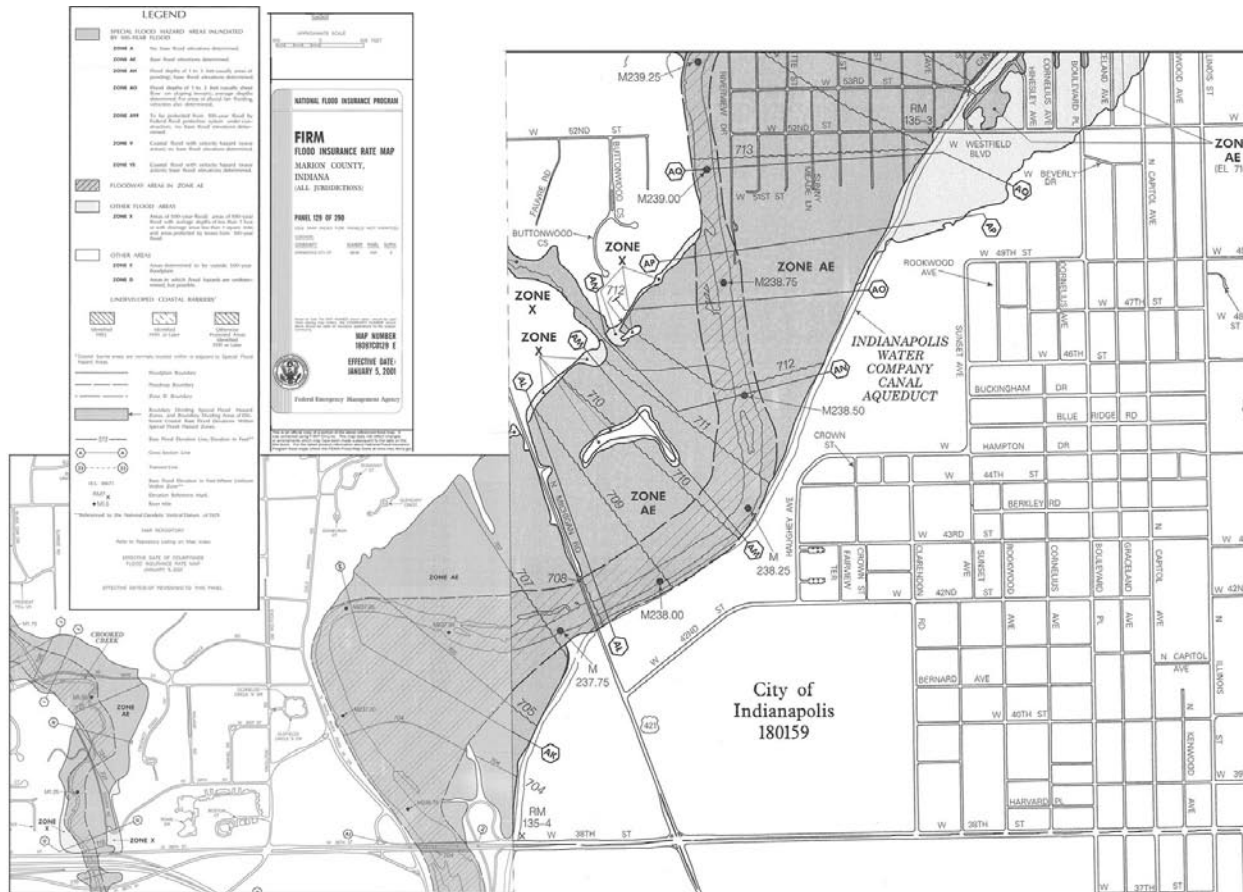
*The house was constructed in 1912 for the Landon Family. It was sold to Josiah Kirby Lilly and his wife in 1932. It was renovated many times up to the 1960s along with the estate spanning into the the other lots of the Woodstock area creating axial views and gardens.*



**Pony Truss Bridge**

*Moved and restored in 2000, the iron bow-string bridge was originally built in Montgomery County, Indiana during the 1870s. It now spans across the canal connecting the IMA to the Central Canal Towpath and future Art & Nature Park.*

# Flood Condition & Mapping



## Flood Plain Issues: FEMA Mapping

The proposed IMA Art and Nature Park along with the Central Canal Towpath all lie in the Flood plain of the adjacent White River. Though the majority of the site would never be completely washed out, except in the event of a 500 year storm, areas of the water-locked island have tendencies to flood when the water elevation rises due to weather. This flooding issue has made the land rich in nutrients over the years and thus explains its use as agricultural land before the 1900s. The soils on the site are Genesee silt loam, typically found in the flood plains of the White River and neighboring streams and creeks. Pockets of wetlands are present in the eastern part of the peninsula and tend to follow a water channel nearby that can be created due to flooding. The vegetation on the site is typical lowland species - Sycamore, Black locust, Hackberry, etc. 187 species have been recorded with 6% of the non-native plants being invasive and having the need to be removed.

Wetlands



White River



Water Comp. Canal





## Site Features & Viewsheds



*Present Day Lilly House Estate - The Large Front Allee on a Snow Covered Afternoon*

### **Oldfields & The Lilly Botanical Gardens**

*The Oldfields Estate and Lilly House all comprise a very historic and influential part of the project site. It is one of the only surviving examples of a Country Place Era landscape design dating back to the early 1900s. With additions and ground expansions over the years the Lillys created a majestic formal landscape thanks to Gallagher's landscape expression and contrast of a true formal and natural design. The house and grounds are still intact and were given to the Indianapolis Museum of Art for preservation and interpretive means. In the development of the Art & Nature Park it will be essential and crucial to examine these historic natural views and gardens that were constructed for the estate in order to preserve them for future generations to enjoy and experience.*

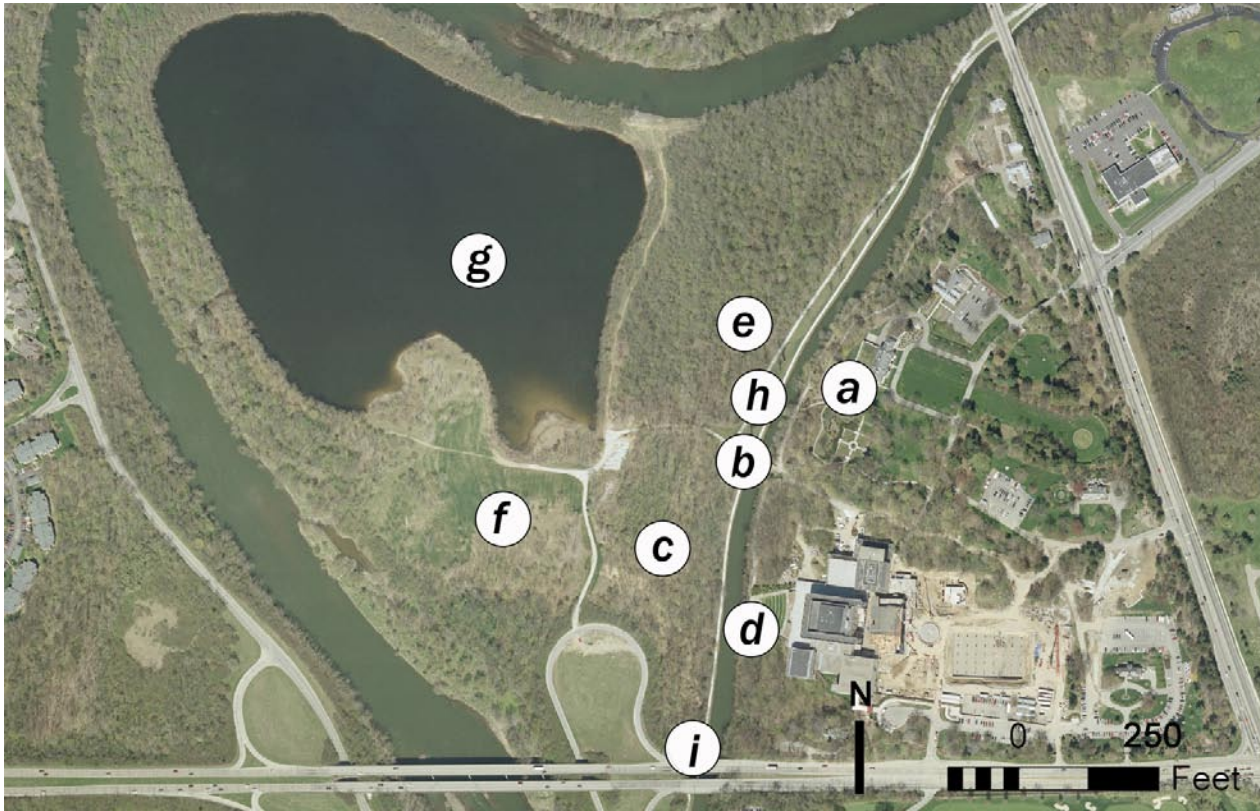
### **Site Panorama from the Lilly House**

*[see map on following page for location]*

*This view from the house terraces shows the canal and woodland island (proposed Art & Nature Park). This view was physically constructed and designed to be of the "wilderness" giving one the impression of being in a mountainous setting. The vegetation frames many views and needs to be protected so users can enjoy the historic and natural beauty of the site even after the future development that is slated for the area.*



## Site Features & Viewsheds



**IMA Bridge Connecting to Trail**

*This bridge marks the node where the trail and the main museum campus meet. This point will be the entrance into the Art & Nature Park. The bridge, a historic 1870s bowstring structure, is a visual gateway and stopping point for users of the Towpath trail.*



**Wetland Areas**

*These areas are located again on the eastern half of the island adjacent to the canal and greenway. The delineations of these areas will need preservation to keep the unique vegetation and animal habitat stable and existent through the Art & Nature Park.*



**IMA Outdoor Theater**

*Used for performances and events. Views out to the woodlands across the canal and trail.*

## Site Features & Viewsheds



**Woodland Area**

*Black locust, Mulberry, etc. line this area with Honeysuckle and Garlic mustard as understory. Remnants of native cultures have been discovered here in the dense overgrown vegetation.*



**The Lake**

*A 30-acre man-made lake. Open to floods by the river, the lake was once a gravel pit used when Interstate 65 was built.*



**Southern Point of Trail**

*A narrow 6 foot path separates the canal and the wetlands of the nature area. The steep slope to the west leads into the moist lowlands of the wetland area.*



**Meadow**

*A cleared field with sparse vegetation and some flooding issues apparent. Mowed grass and a gravel trail around are all man-made additions to this area.*

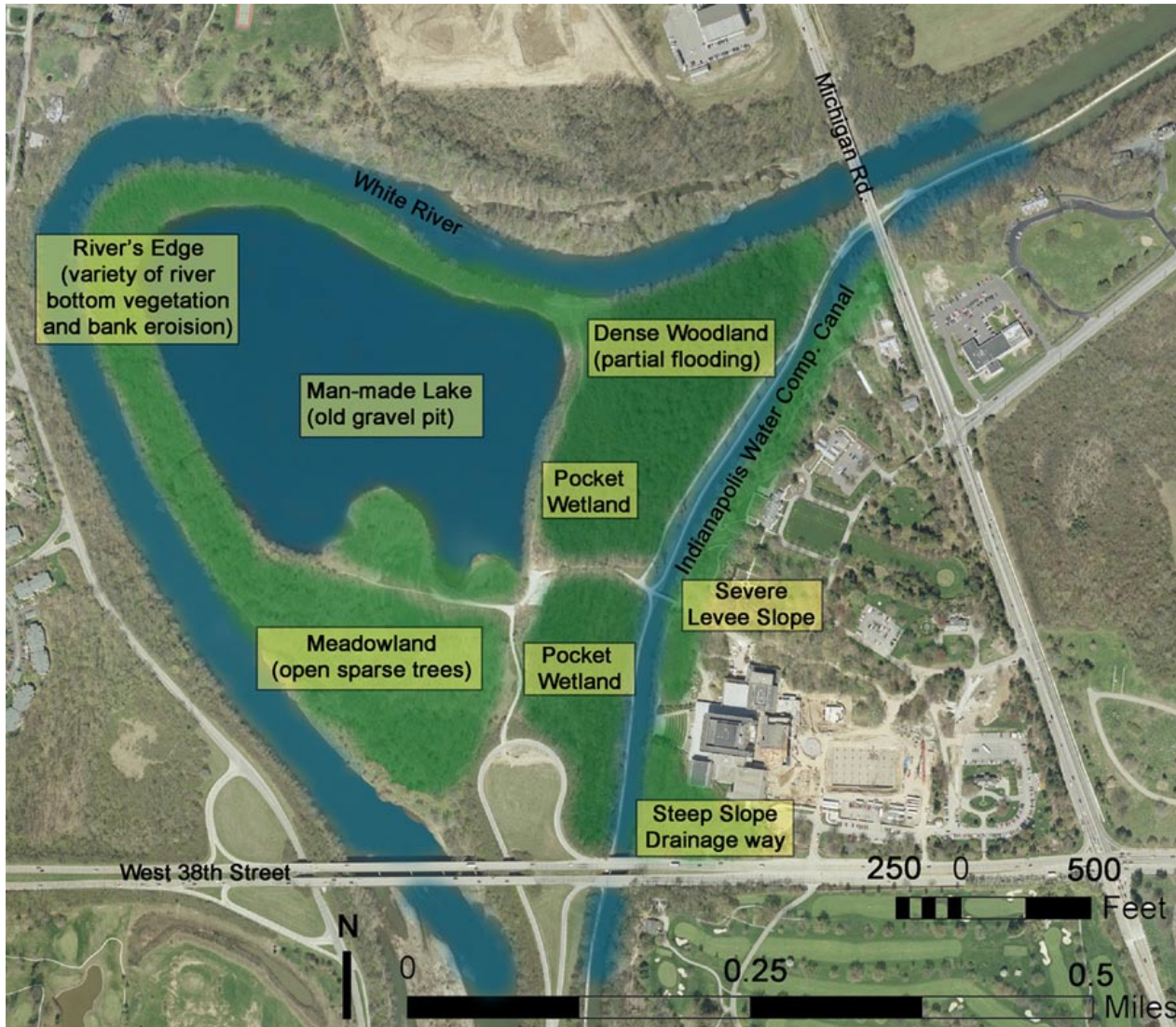


**View North Along Trail**

*A narrow 8-10 foot path along the canal with woodlands lined to the west of trail and canal. There is also an alternate trail that runs parallel to the main towpath trail.*



# Natural Inventory

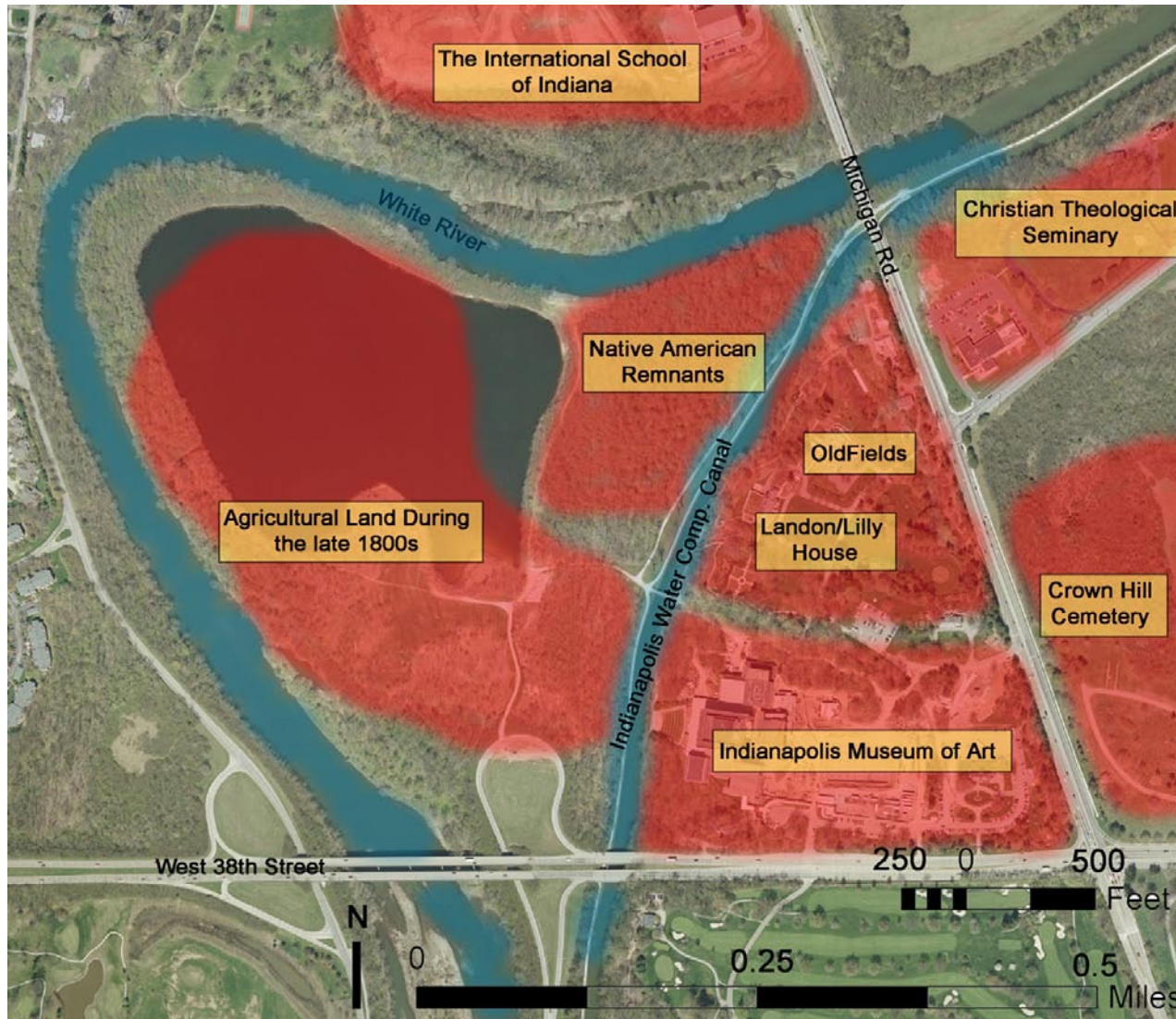


## Natural Features Inventory

The site contains many unique natural features spanning over some 200 acres. The largest element is the man made lake that rests in the center of the proposed Art & Nature Park creating a large 30 acre habitat for many animals in the site and that travel along the White River corridor. The river banks and vegetation edge is the densest on the property, but there are issues with bank erosion, poor soil (silt loam, like the rest of the site) that does not drain fast. Some of the driest parts of the site are the meadowland area and woodland area that consists of many native trees, but can have some flood problems with the understory being mainly invasive plants. The wetland pockets are the most fragile on the site. The small marshy conditions are vital to some of the vegetation and animal habitats in the area. The last natural feature of the general site is the steep levee-like slope of the hillside leading up to the highlands (IMA, Oldfields) engineered when the canal was constructed through the property.



# Cultural Inventory

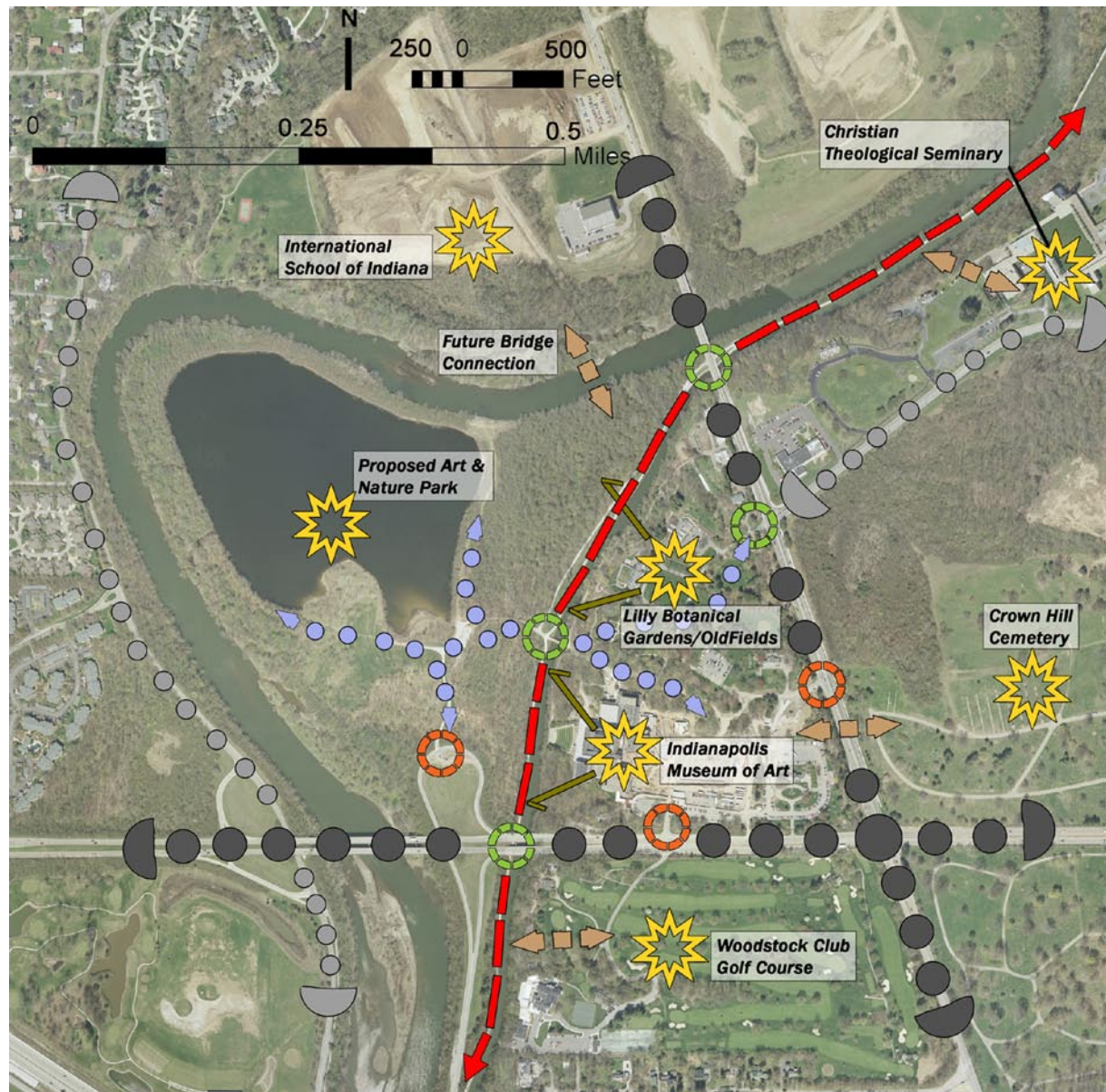


## Cultural Features Inventory






The site is very rich in terms of the cultural influences both on the property itself and in the immediate context around it. Looking first at the historic elements on site, the Indianapolis Museum of Art is very fortunate to have such a well kept estate and grounds dating from the Country Place Era. Both the Landon and Lilly history and influence on the property can be seen today and echoes the once agricultural environment of the land before them. Also though not completely official, there has been studies done and evidence found that indicates a native culture once inhabited the lowlands. Getting into the more modern day cultural influences, Crown Hill Cemetery is the largest in terms of acreage and attracts many visitors to its collection of historic graves and memorials. A large religious culture exists just northeast on 48th street with the Christian Theological Seminary educating many students on its campus. The most influential of culture influences is the International School that just lies across the White River, offering Pre-K through 12 grade courses based in foreign language and cultural diversity.



# Site Analysis & / Inventory Analysis



## Analysis Key

-  points of interest
-  pedestrian entries
-  vehicular entries
-  view sheds
-  access links

## Inventory Key

-  major roads
-  minor roads
-  central canal towpath
-  pedestrian circulation



# Character Section Studies

## Site Opportunities

- Influence from historic landmarks and landscapes
- Numerous educational opportunities for nearby schools and religious based organizations
- Environmental awareness to the public for educational and preservation purposes
- Connectivity of neighborhoods, schools, parks with cultural and recreational destinations through the Central Canal Towpath

## Site Constraints

- Proposed design site is located in the flood plain.
- Impact on both the fragile vegetation and natural environments (wetlands, woodlands) present on the site as well as the animal habitats
- Indy Greenway regulations and codes, limited development along the Towpath
- Viewsheds from the upland points of interest will impact locations for development in the art and nature area.



**a** Water Links [river-meadow-lake-river] North/South - pg. 18

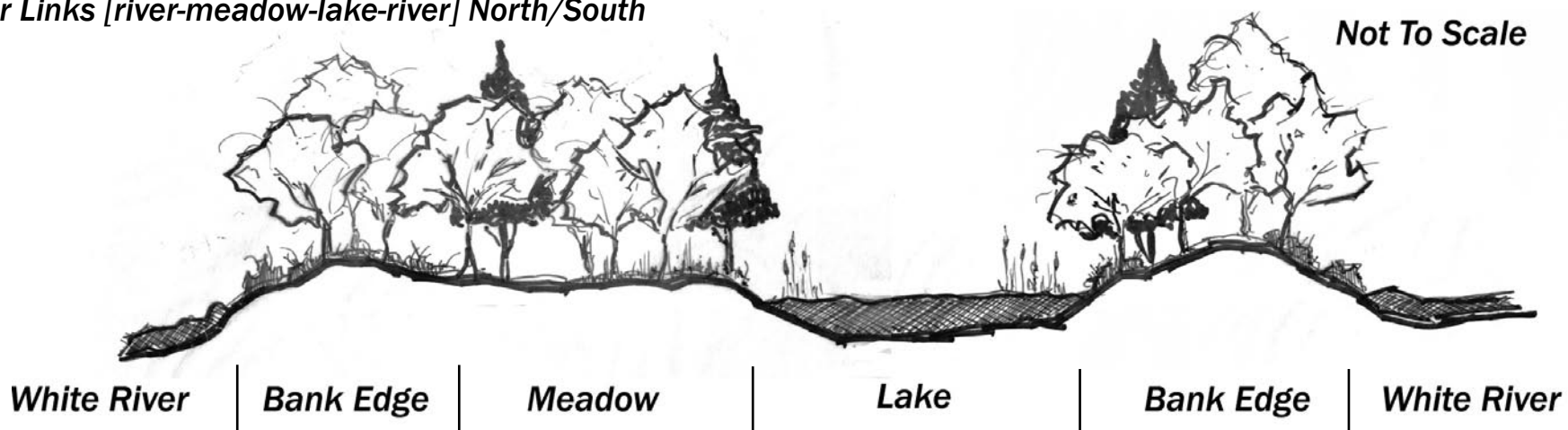
**c** Museum Facilities to Natural Landscape - East/West - pg. 19

**b** Natural Transitions [wetland-wood-land-river] North/South - pg. 18

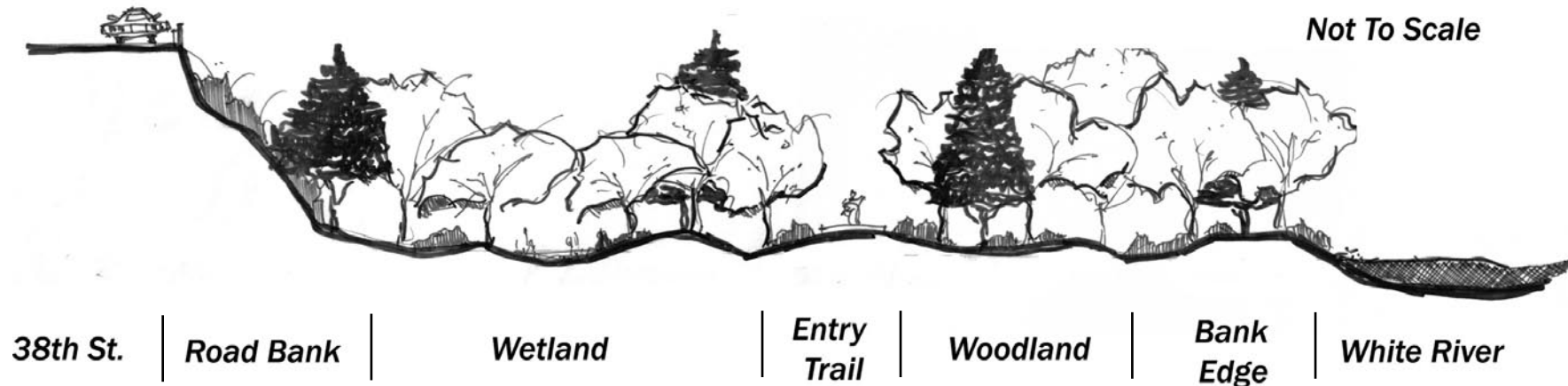
**d** Historic OldFields to Natural Landscape - East/West - pg. 19

# Character Section Studies

**a** Water Links [river-meadow-lake-river] North/South



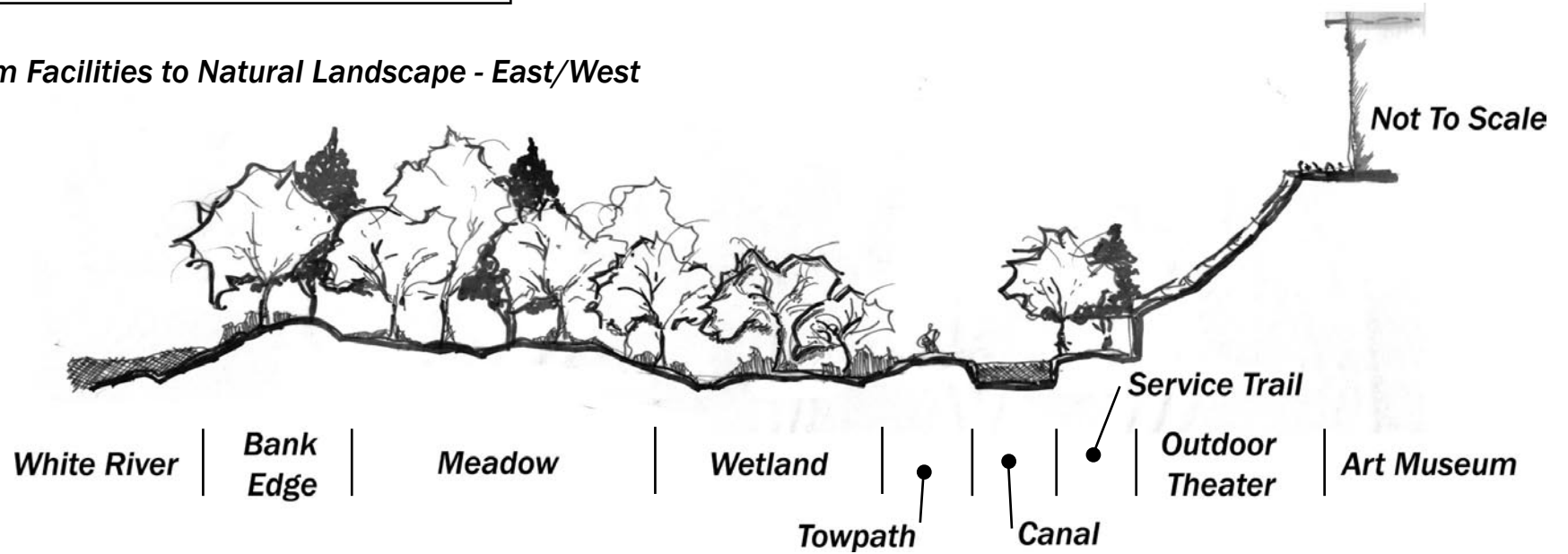
**b** Natural Transitions [wetland-woodland-river] North/South



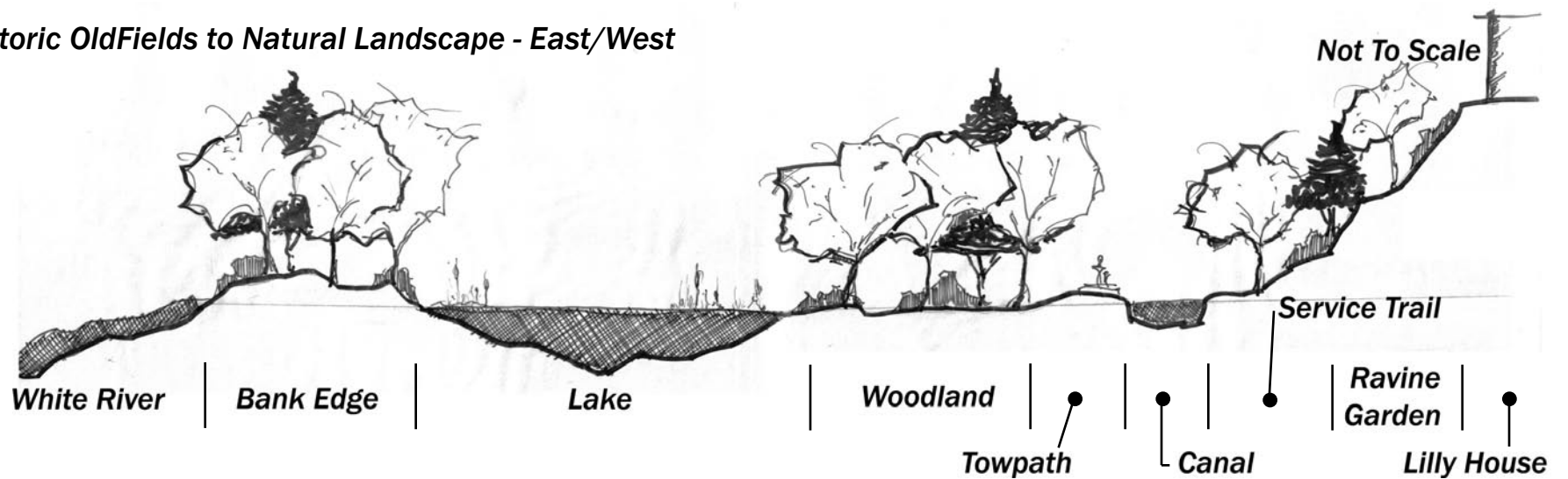


# Character Section Studies

## **C** Museum Facilities to Natural Landscape - East/West



## **d** Historic OldFields to Natural Landscape - East/West



# Project Vision & Objectives



## Project Vision Statement

*Blending the lines between nature, art, and culture, it is the vision of the Indianapolis Museum of Art and the Indy Greenways Department to develop an Art & Nature Park experience that engages users in a new and unique way. Through active exploration and passive recreation, the land will bring inspirations of art and an appreciation of nature and ecological preservation. Education and interpretation will lead the way for people of all ages to enjoy the history and future of an evolving cultural and artistic landscape. Artwork housed inside the IMA will take new life and be interpreted for a landscape experience that evokes both cultural and natural aspects of contemporary and ecological design.*



## Mission of The Indianapolis Museum of Art

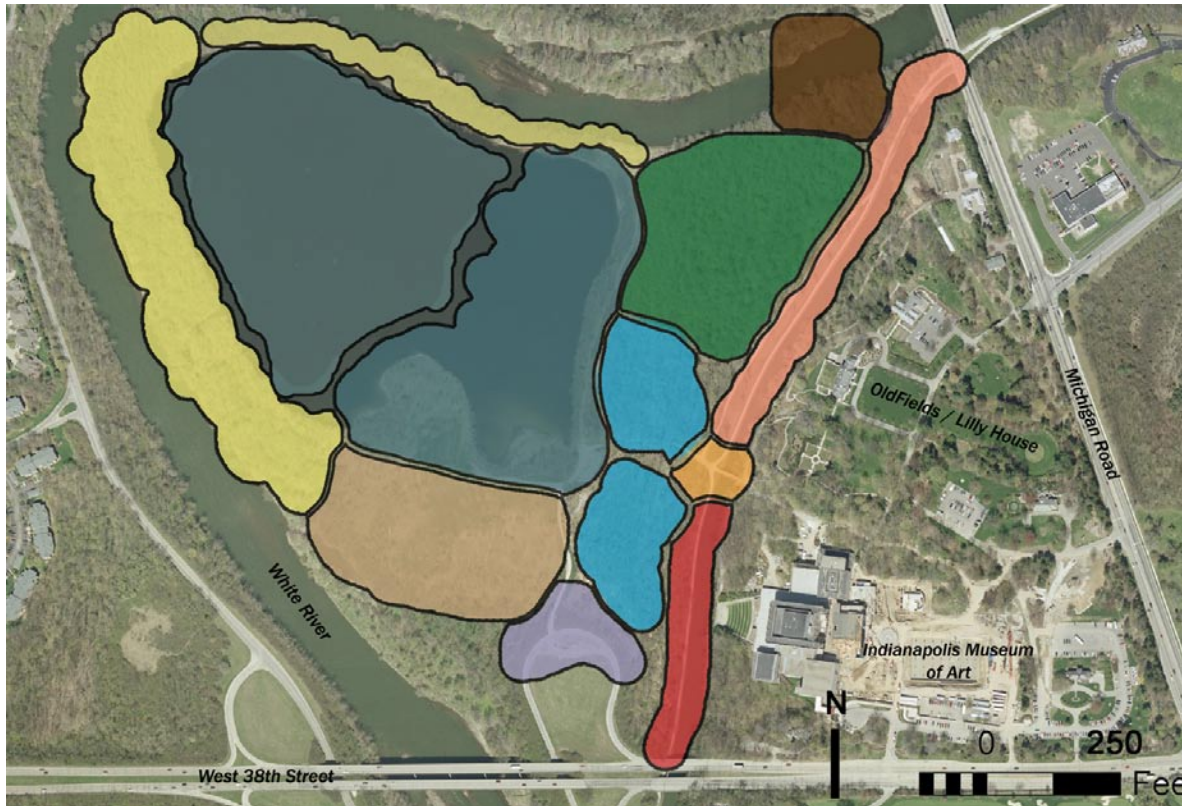
*The mission of the Indianapolis Museum of Art is to enable a large and diverse audience to see, understand and enjoy the best of the world's visual arts. To this end, the Museum collects, preserves, exhibits and interprets original works of art.*

## Goals & Objections

- Interpret original artwork that the IMA owns into the landscape
- Create opportunities for experiencing art in a natural environment
- Inspire artists to work with natural processes and materials
- Preserve a valued natural area while providing for public use and enjoyment
- Be a place for major community and regional events
- Provide access to the natural world for families and children
- Be an imaginative place to play
- Present art and nature to a wide and diverse audience
- Provide a unique recreational experience
- Serve as a place of environmental learning
- Provide an outdoor place for the public to engage in artistic expression
- Connect to the Indy Parks Greenways system













# Site Programming



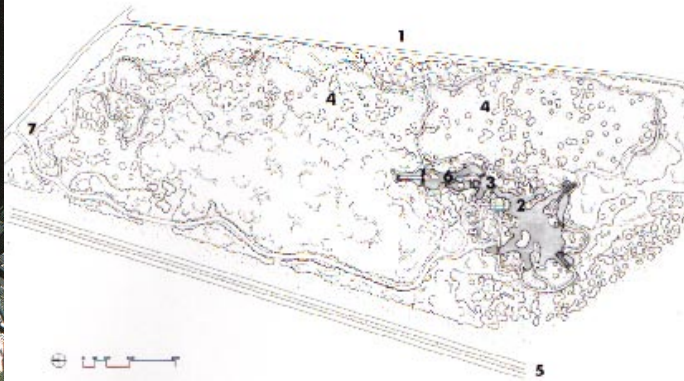
## Site Program Summary

The IMA Art & Nature Park is unique in that it has many natural character zones that offer a vast array of different experiences. With this the program basically follows these zones and states the type of art and/or nature experience that could be developed in that area. Trail planning and viewshed sensibility were crucial in deciding what could take place along the trail as well as the entry points and views to and from both sides of the corridor. The program's strength is in its ability to preserve much of the sensitive land areas along the White River and in the wetlands on site, while still allowing for some interesting development to take place in the other major character areas.

area	size	program / uses	area	size	program / uses
 Southern Trail	0.2 mi of Trail 6' Width typ. 2' Shoulders	Artistic / contemporary Influence. Gateway. Connection to ADA sculpture ramp. Sequences & expressions	 Woodlands	15 Acres	Outdoor gallery. Hidden nooks for permanent and environmental art. Response to natural forces. Exploration. View framing. Education.
 Northern Trail	0.3 mi of Trail 6' Width typ. 4' Shoulders	Historic / cultural Influence. Typ. trail uses. Natural viewshed - historic preservation. Interpretive signage.	 Wetlands	emergent wetland - 0.34 acres. forest wetlands - 1.38 acres	Functional Art - Integration of benches, lighting, and signage. Elevated boardwalks. Flood resistant materials. Preservation & education.
 Main Entry (Trail Head)	Approx. 1 Acre	Entry into Art & Nature Park. Signage and information. Bike parking and trail head amenities. Visual presence.	 The Lake	30 Acres	Water expressions of art. Overlooks and access points to lake. Dock Areas and fishing opportunities. Habitat restoration & education.
 Pedestrian Bridge	Approx. 100' spanning the White River	Future connection to the International School of Indiana. Artistic expression. Connects to Canal Trail and Art Park.	 Meadowland	10 Acres	Open for display of large art. Art & music festival area. Sculpted land art. Children's play opportunities. Non-formal activities - frisbee, etc.
 Alternate Entry	Approx. 2 Acres	Student/visitor drop off/pick up. Associated signage & gates.	 River Bank Nature Trail	0.5 mi of Trail Width Varies	Untouched natural area. Functional art: bridges and pathways. Standard 8' trail. Interaction with river through views and access. Habitat restoration - White River Corridor.



## Case Studies



### **Crosby Arboretum - Edward Blake Picayune, Mississippi - 1979**

The Crosby Arboretum is native plant and nature preserve set up to educate and stimulate people's perception of the environment. Landscape Architect, Ed Blake, planned the site using both artist and scientific objectives to produce a truly poetic landscape that celebrates the Mississippi region and its local plant life. Pinecote is the name given to the sixty-four acres of land set aside for education and habitat display. Again the site was designed with the idea of ecology being the leading factor in layout of the nature preserve. From this natural expressions of art have been embedded in the site with the Pinecote Pavilion, designed by Fay Jones, being a focal point overlooking the pond. Every plant and design element was carefully sited for maximum visual quality framing views and creating pocket areas of distinct natural character. Even the paths give a rhythm of simplicity to a dense and complex landscape. Crosby Arboretum is a continual evolving landscape that pushes expressions of nature to the users while using ecology for education and maintenance purposes.



## Case Studies



### Park Güell - Antonio Gaudí Barcelona, Spain - 1910-1914

Antonio Gaudí was well-known for his modernist work throughout Spain. His buildings and structures are even today an artistic expression that is on the cutting edge though they were constructed during the start of the 20th century. Gaudí's park, entitled Park Güell, is located on top a large hillside that overlooks the entire city of Barcelona and out onto the Mediterranean Sea. This multi-level park uses many natural stone elements to build walkways and bridges that are so well executed and "sculpted" into the land that they blend the lines of art and structure. Other more colorful aspects of the park include the serpentine benches on top an overlook supported by classic columns. These benches are covered in beautiful mosaic tile and even have a lumbar support built-in for perfect ergonomics. The park has many hidden trails and surprises with sculpture and breathtaking views throughout.



## Case Studies



### **Columbus Topiary Garden & Park Columbus, Ohio - 1989**

The Columbus Topiary Garden is one of the most influential case studies I researched that has had a great impact on my thesis project. Conceived by Columbus, Ohio sculptor James T. Mason in the middle 1980s, the garden is an actually impressionist landscape painting that has been interpreted into the physical landscape. "George Seurat's impressionist painting, *A Sunday on the Island of La Grande Jatte*, has come to life in this topiary park." This is the ultimate expression of art and landscape where the lines and barriers between them completely mesh into one. The finely trimmed topiaries in the park represent the Victorian-era people in Seurat's pointillist masterpiece, all sculpted to the exact actions they are doing in the painting. These nearly 80 topiary figures grace the grounds around the pond and grassy berms with trees even selected and placed based the original composition. The upkeep on the park is extensive to keep the topiaries in pristine condition, done mostly by volunteers and supporter of the park and arts in Columbus, Ohio. Again this project is so influential because the visitors can actually walk into art and explore it a three dimensional way that not only is a wise and functional use of space, but therapeutic and educational as well.

# Planning Considerations

## **The Clients:**

- Indianapolis Area Public
- Indianapolis Museum of Art
- Indianapolis Water Company Canal
- Indy Greenways

## **The Users:**

- Central Canal Towpath Users
- Indianapolis Museum of Art Visitors
- Indianapolis Area Public
- Students from Neighboring Institutions
- Native Flora & Fauna

## **Ownership & Management**

- Indianapolis Museum of Art
  - Proposed Art & Nature Park
- Indianapolis Water Company Canal
  - Canal Corridor
- Indy Greenways
  - Trail Maintenance & Legal Partner with IMA & IWC for Security and Liability

## **Floristic Inventory:**

The woodland coverage along the canal is a combination of native and non-native vegetation. The heavy mowing maintenance along the canal promotes the weedy development of the non-native plants with under-story vegetation of honeysuckle and garlic mustard. The cleared meadow area is a man-made disturbance that is open to flooding from the river. Some native wet loving plants are located along the banks of the lake. The largest habitat of native mature trees exist along the White River banks and includes old sycamores and cottonwoods as well as a display of many native wildflowers. 187 species were recorded on the site, but the removal of the evasive 6% of the flora will be the focus part of development along with replacement of native plants.



## **ADA Sculpture Ramp Access:**

Currently under construction is the ADA accessibility ramp that will stretch from the Museum entrance down the south side slopes toward the canal front and the towpath trail. These series of ramps will be both a functional way to access the trail and the new Art & Nature Park as well as an art piece in itself. Also the ramps will incorporate pools of water that will filter run-off water from the new parking lots of the museum as it drains down the hillside and into the canal.





# Master Planning Assumptions



**1989 JJR Master Plan - Eli Lilly Botanical Garden  
& "Island" Development**

**2000 Master Plan - IMA Art & Nature Park  
MIG, Inc. - California**



# Master Planning Assumptions

Planning / Design Work	Firm/Professional	Positive Opportunities	Negative Impacts
[ PAST ] Master Development Plan: - Eli Lilly Botanical Garden (1989) - Opportunity Study: "The Island" (1989)	JJR - Johnson, Johnson & Roy Inc. Ann Arbor, MI	- Comprehensive Unit Plan for Entire Campus - Olmsted Plan used as guiding reference - Pedestrian-Based Circulation System - Vegetation Mgt. & Habitat Restoration (Island)	- Historic Stables and Farmsteads Converted to Maintenance Complex. - Vegetation Cleared for Views to Lake - Neglect of Historic Viewsheds
[ CURRENT] Indianapolis Museum of Art: Art & Nature Park Master Plan (2000)	MIG Inc. - Berkeley, CA Susan Goltsman Paul I. Cripe Inc. - Engineer - Indianapolis, IN	- Siting of Natural "Park-Like" Character Areas and use of Native Plant Materials - Educational Opportunities & Connections - Connections & Views to the Greenway System	- Extreme Dense Development of Land - Flooding Issues and Elements - Historic Viewshed Obstructions - Threats to Ecology & Habitat Creation
[ FUTURE ] Indianapolis Museum of Art: Virginia B. Fairbanks Art & Nature Park - Design & Development (2004- Future)	Edward Blake - The Landscape Studio Hattiesburg, Mississippi Marlon Blackwell Arch.	- Enhancement of People's Perception of their own Environment its Natural Development - Native Plant Restoration - Natural System Plan & Cohensive Site Design	---
[ THESIS ] "Nature Refining Art" IMA - V.B. Fairbanks Art & Nature Park Indy Greenways - Central Canal Towpath Undergrad. Thesis Study (2004-2005)	Mark A. Dobbs 5th Yr. Landscape Arch. College of Arch. & Planning Ball State University	- Interpretation of IMA Art in the Landscape - Natural and Historic Preservation - Focus on Edge Conditions & Transitions - Art & Nature Experiences - Influences	---



2005 Image of Ed Blake's Proposal for Design of the Virginia B. Fairbanks Art & Nature Park



# Conceptual Planning

## Basis for Conceptual Design

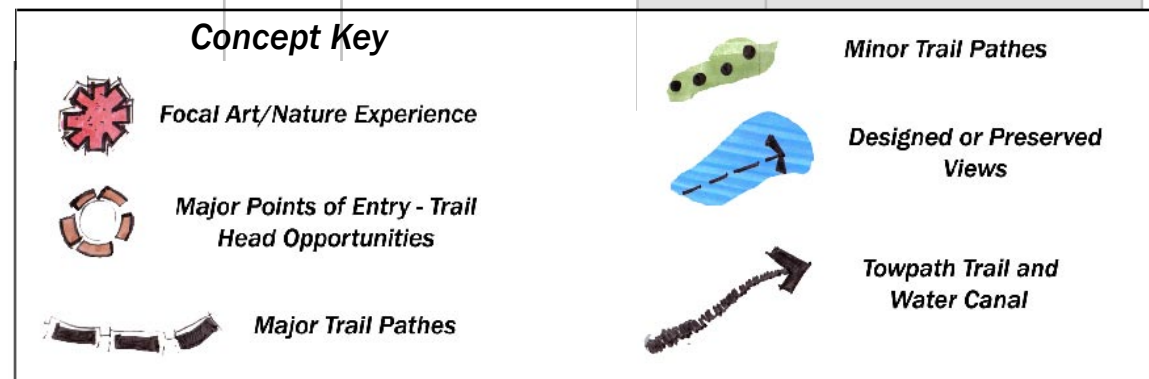
All of these concepts explore the locations of art and nature spaces as well as their spatial relationship with pathways and existing conditions. It became apparent that certain elements were essential in the design and were utilized in all of the conceptual work. These included the entry trailhead space that will be the main point of entry into the Art and Nature Park as well as the drop-off secondary access point on the southside of the site. Other common elements included an overlook space on the lake and river, a boardwalk system in the wetlands, a secluded forest space, event and contemporary art development in the open meadow, as well as some sort of trail system linking around the lake and exploring the edge of the White River. The concepts define different uses of the land as well as its impact on the natural ecosystem. ADA accessibility issues and existing trail connectivity are also in the scope accomplished by this conceptual planning phase.

## Intensity of Trail Use

Table 11-10  
Intensity of Trail Use

User Type	Low-Intensity Use	Medium-Intensity Use	High-Intensity Use
Pedestrians/walkers	2 PFM <sup>a</sup> or less	10-15 PFM	25 PFM
Bicyclists	50 ADBT <sup>b</sup> or less	250 ADBT	1000 ADBT
Equestrians	4 HTD <sup>c</sup> or less	20 HTD	100 HTD
Snowmobiles	100 ADT <sup>d</sup> or less	200 ADT	1000 ADT

<sup>a</sup>PFM, pedestrians per foot width of walkway/minute; source: Timesaver Standards for Landscape Architects.  
<sup>b</sup>ADBT, average daily bicycle trip; source: Rhode Island Department of Transportation.  
<sup>c</sup>HTD, horses per 6 foot trail/day; source: American Horse Council.  
<sup>d</sup>ADT, average daily trips; source: International Association of Snowmobile Administrators.



# Nature Concept



## Positive Opportunities

*Preservation of ecological sensitive areas with low impact secondary trail development in some areas. High-use trail connects major nodes with smaller paths into the nature-based art experiences. Historic view sheds from OldFields out to nature area preserved.*

## Negative Constraints

*Limited use and space for artistic expressions and experiences. Due to preservation of a vast part of the site, only smaller groups and events could take place here. Also the opportunity for trail interaction is lost and neglected.*



## Art Concept



### Positive Opportunities

*All possible places for an art or natural experience are explored even on the trail itself. Larger segments of a high-use trail is used for ease of navigation and for ADA aspects. Major and minor entry points into the site utilized.*

### Negative Constraints

*Major development will dramatically impact the natural ecosystem of the site. With the amount of experiences that can happen in places selected, users may feel overwhelmed at times.*

# Trail Concept



## Positive Opportunities

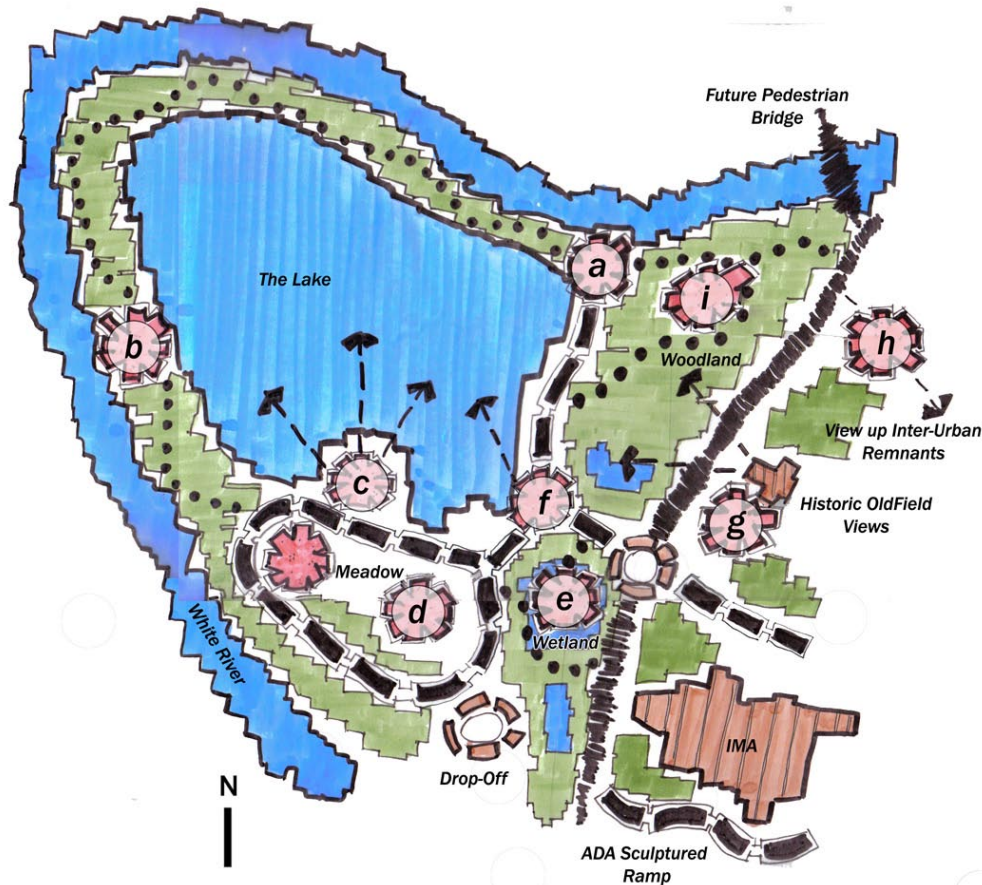
*Trail-focused planning with emphasis on views and experiences along the trail. Drawing connections to the history and nature. Creating loops off of trail that can be explored with ease through the adjacent areas in the art park.*

## Negative Constraints

*Possible lost sense of historic trail character. Not creating the abilities or infrastructure to explore the entire site. Limited trail and areas for ADA users as well as large group tours and events.*

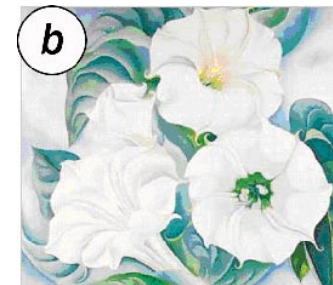


# Schematic Planning - Art Selection



**François Boucher**  
*Idyllic Landscape with Woman Fishing, 1761*

Like most of Boucher's landscapes, this one is inspired by picturesque motifs of the French countryside: the herdsman, the woman fishing, the artfully tumbledown ruins, lush vegetation, and radiant sky.



**Georgia O'Keeffe**  
*Jimson Weed, 1936-37*

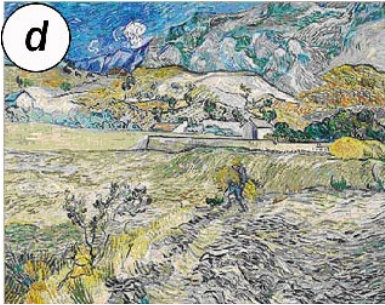
Georgia O'Keeffe completed at least three other jimson weed paintings in the 1930s, but this canvas is the most ambitious of them and one of the largest floral compositions she created. She emphasized the beauty of the flowers with a simplified palette of colors.



**Winslow Homer**  
*The Boat Builders, 1873*

Homer had a genius for subtle yet penetrating narrative, as in this painting, where he connects the real nautical world with the imaginative world of the boys by overlapping, in the center of the picture, the toy boat and the sailing ship.

# Schematic Planning - Art Selection



**d**  
Vincent van Gogh - Landscape at Saint-Rémy  
(The Ploughed Field), 1889

The laborer with his arms full of wheat reflects Van Gogh's abiding interest in the cycles of nature, work, and life. The furrowed terrain and rugged mountains, rendered with his dynamic gestural brushwork and rich surface texture, seem charged with a sense of energy and Van Gogh's belief in the power of nature.



**e**  
Claude Monet  
"Water Lilies (The Clouds)", 1903

These paintings depict the garden at his house. Although the objects in the paintings don't really look like lilies, or water, or clouds, they are close enough that you can get a feeling for what you are seeing.



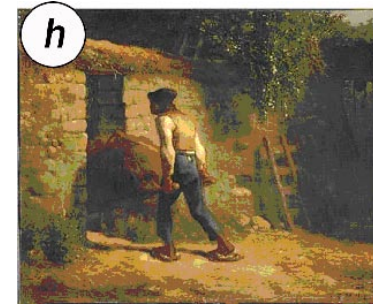
**f**  
Georges Seurat  
The Channel of Gravelines, 1890

Seurat became the pioneer of the progressive movement known as Neo-Impressionism. Using a systematic application of the laws of color behavior, he chose pigments that transcribe the purity of coastal air and light.



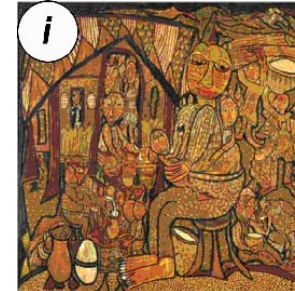
**g**  
Richard Edward Miller - American  
Afternoon Tea, 1910

Miller's painting, executed in the loose brushstrokes associated with Impressionism, is an image of comfort and leisure unencumbered by domestic responsibilities.



**h**  
Jean François Millet  
Peasant with a Wheelbarrow, 1848-1852

Millet frequently depicted scenes of peasants at work, and his knowledge of classical art helped him to create dignified, idealized images of laborers in the French countryside.

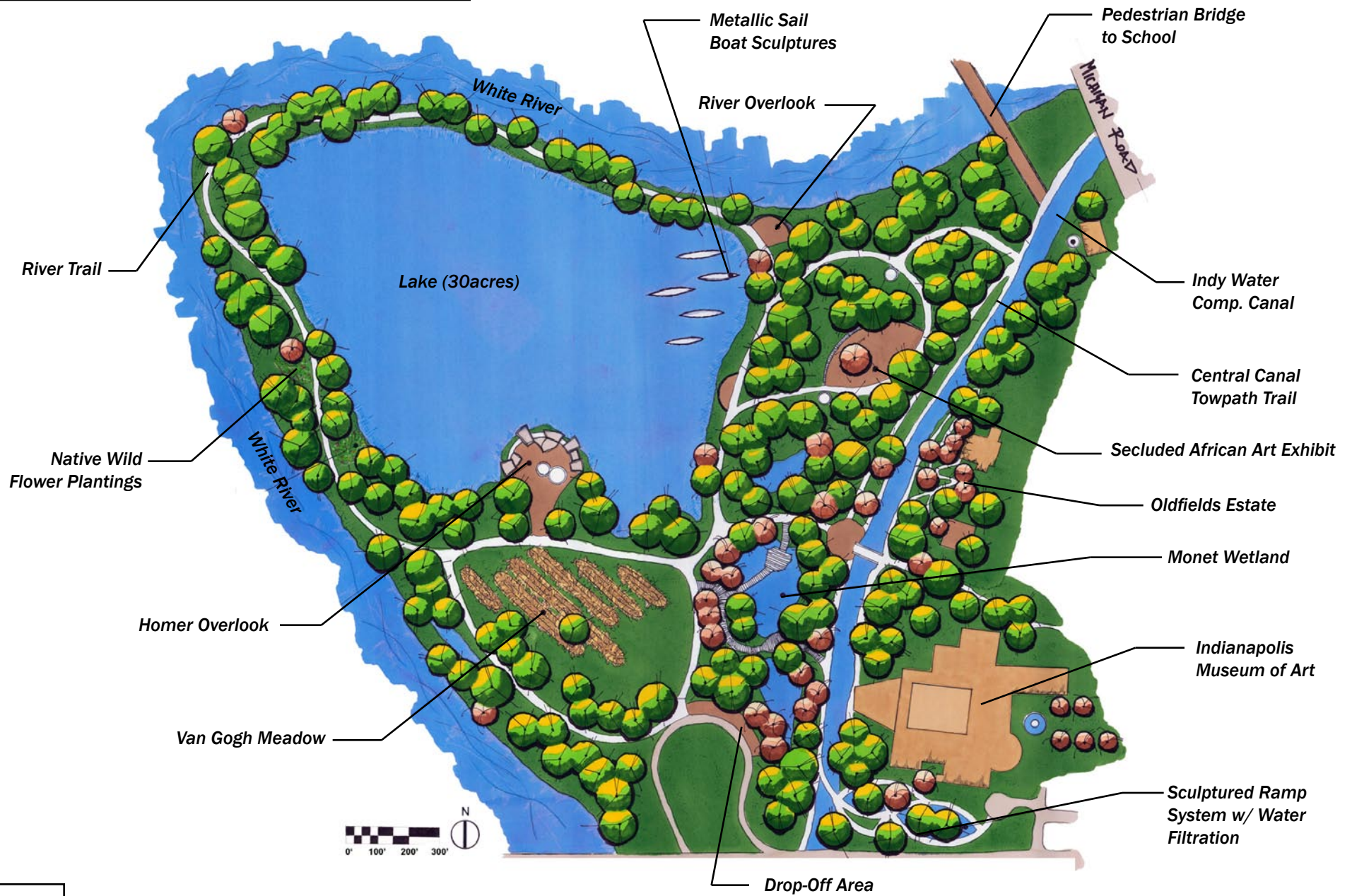


**i**  
Twins Seven Seven - Nigeria  
Healing of the Abiku Children, 1973

In this earth-toned painting, a mother has brought twins to the priest, who is seated in the structure behind the mother.



# Schematic Master Plan



# Panorama Study of Detailed Design Area

## Schematic Design Highlights

- Trailhead entry into site connecting the towpath, IMA, and historic grounds.
- Boardwalk and platforms in wetlands provide artistic and educational opportunities
- Curved mosaic walls and mounded grass installation in meadow (Van Gogh Painting)
- Natural rock overlook to lake with focal sculpture piece reflecting art and composition
- Ecological riverwalk with native plantings of trees and wildflowers
- Sculpted ADA ramp system with runoff water filtration connecting across the canal
- Metallic sail boat sculptures sited on the lake with filtered views around site
- Other art experiences that reflect composition, lighting, and technique of art or artist



*Panorama looking towards the IMA from the proposed Van Gogh Meadow*



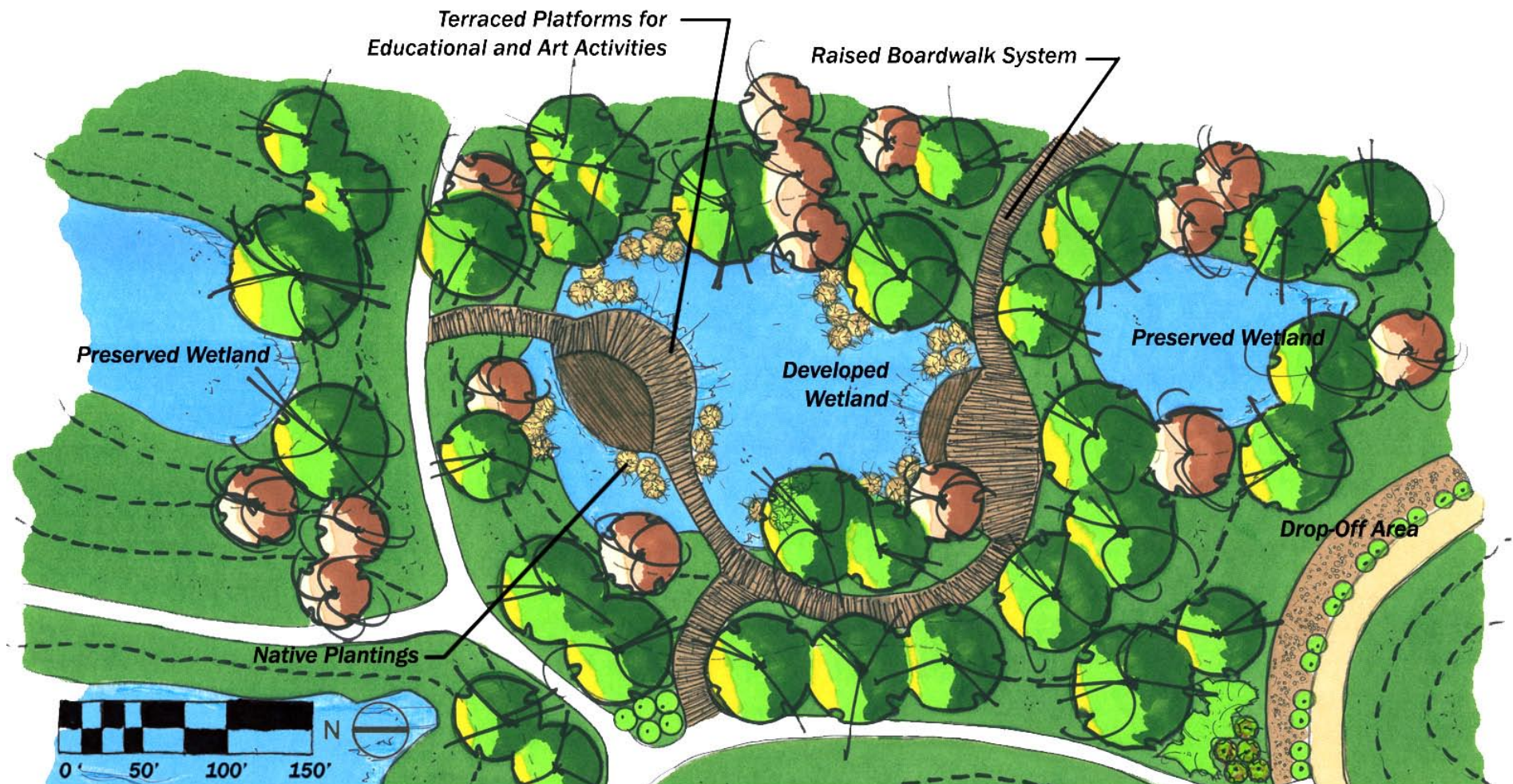
*Panorama looking West of the Van Gogh Meadow*



*Panorama looking over the lake where the Homer Overlook will be developed*

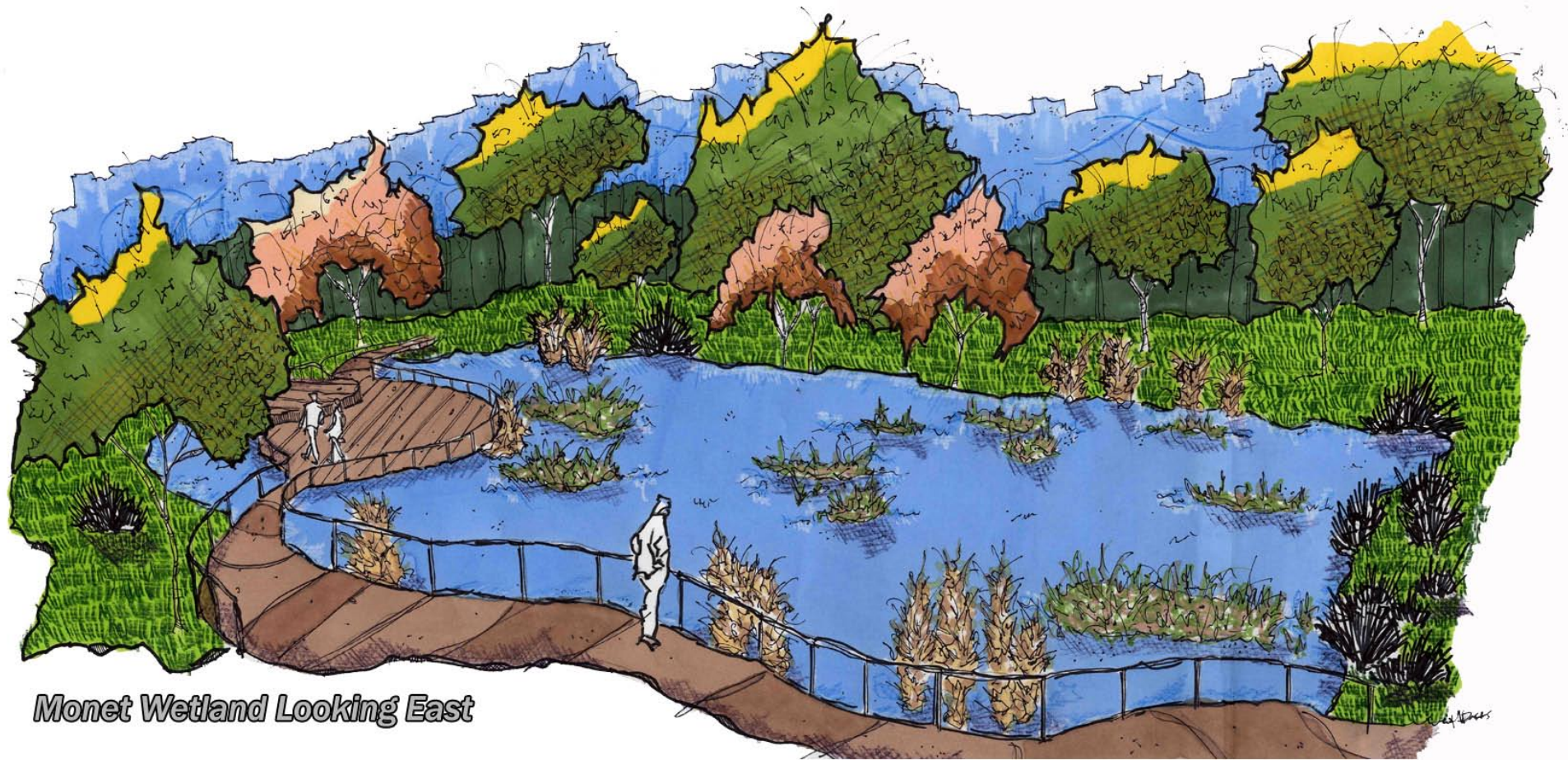


# Monet Wetland Plan





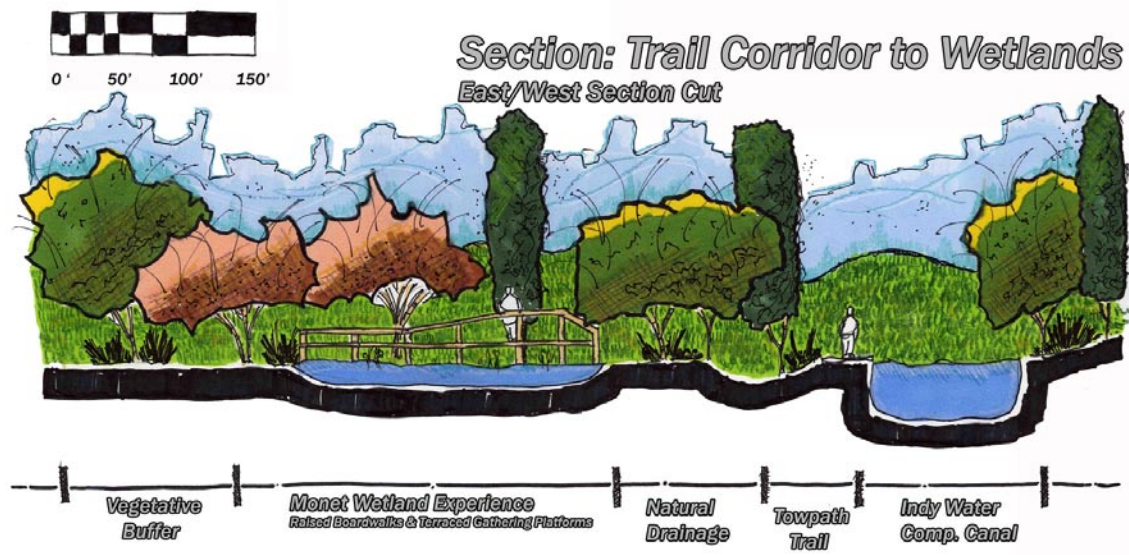
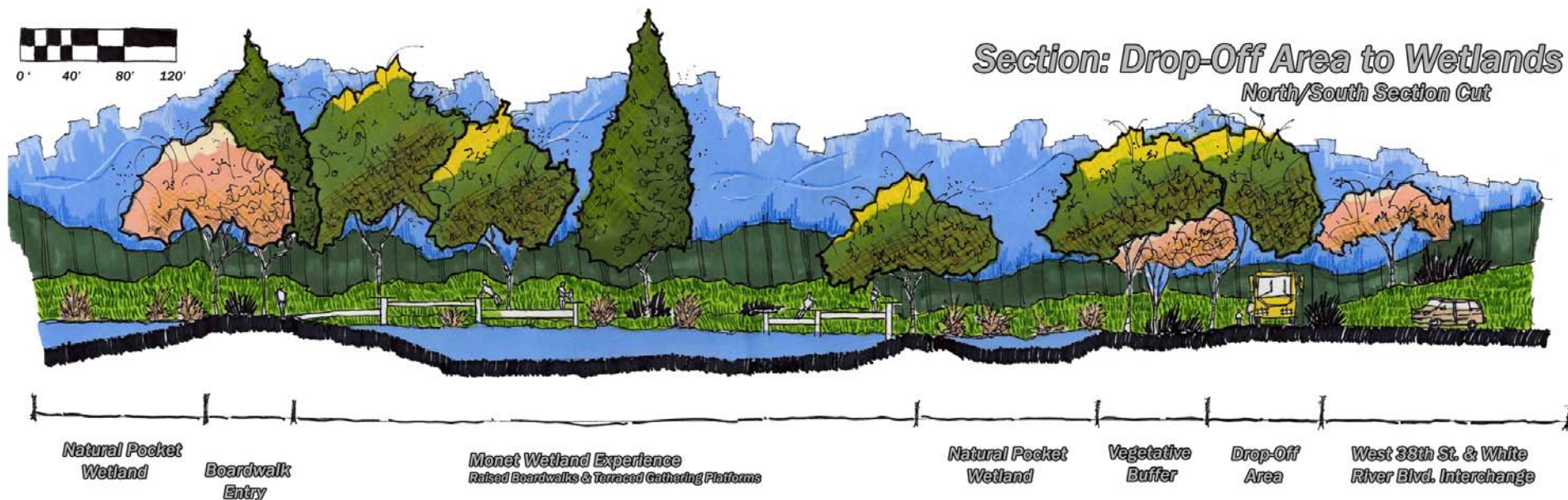
## Monet Wetland Perspective



*Monet Wetland Looking East*

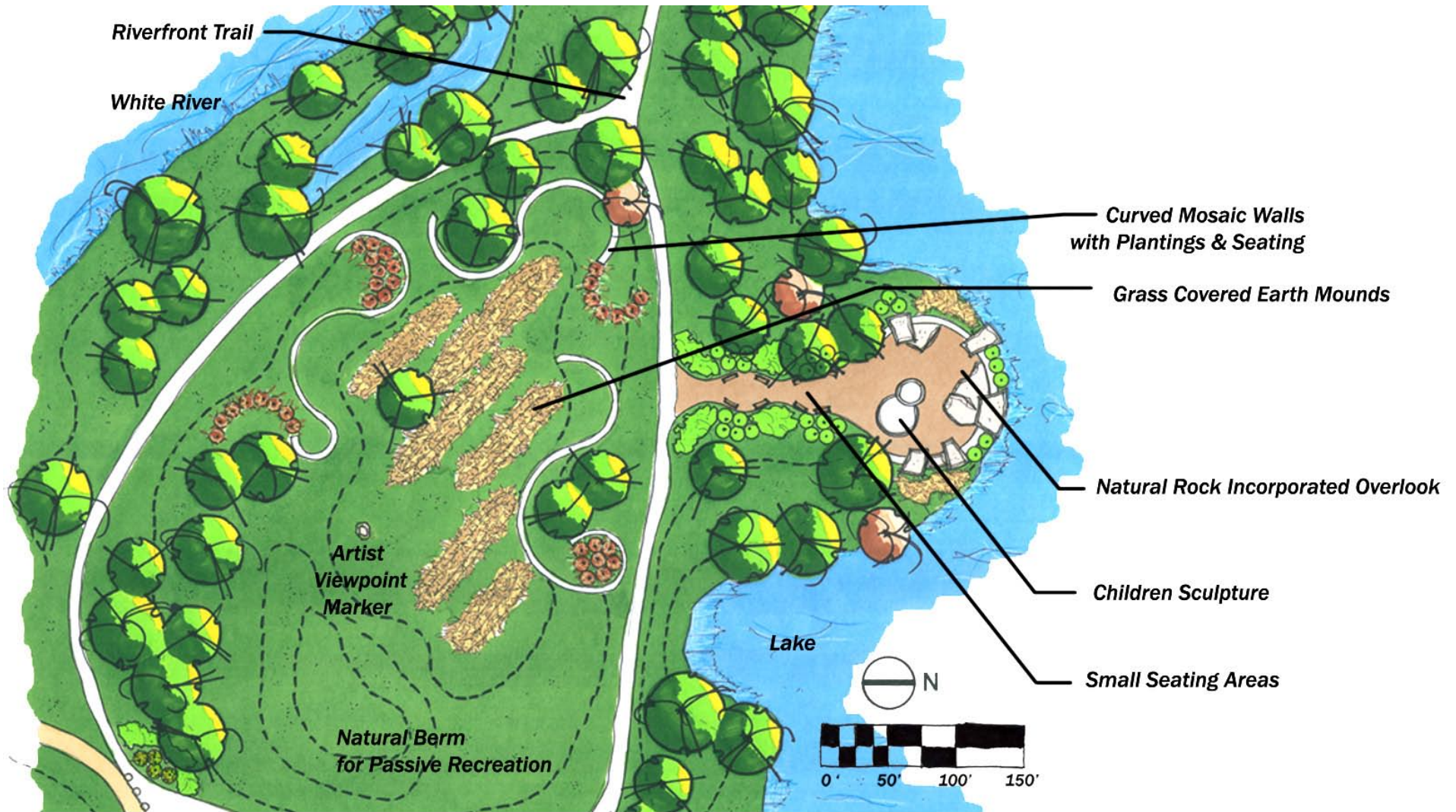


# Monet Wetland Sections





# Van Gogh Meadow/Homer Overlook Plan





## Homer Overlook Perspective



*Homer Overlook  
Looking North*



## Van Gogh Meadow Perspective



*The Van Gogh Meadow Looking West*



## Mosaic Wall Detail



*Mosaic Wall Detail*



# Meadow / Overlook Section



0' 50' 100' 150'

## Section: Meadow to Lake Overlook North/South Section Cut



**Woodland Buffer &  
Secondary Trail**

**Van Gogh Meadow**  
Mounded Grass & Curved Mosaic Walls

**Trailway &  
Overlook Entry**

**Homer Overlook**  
Focal Sculpture & Natural  
Rock Boulders

**The Lake**

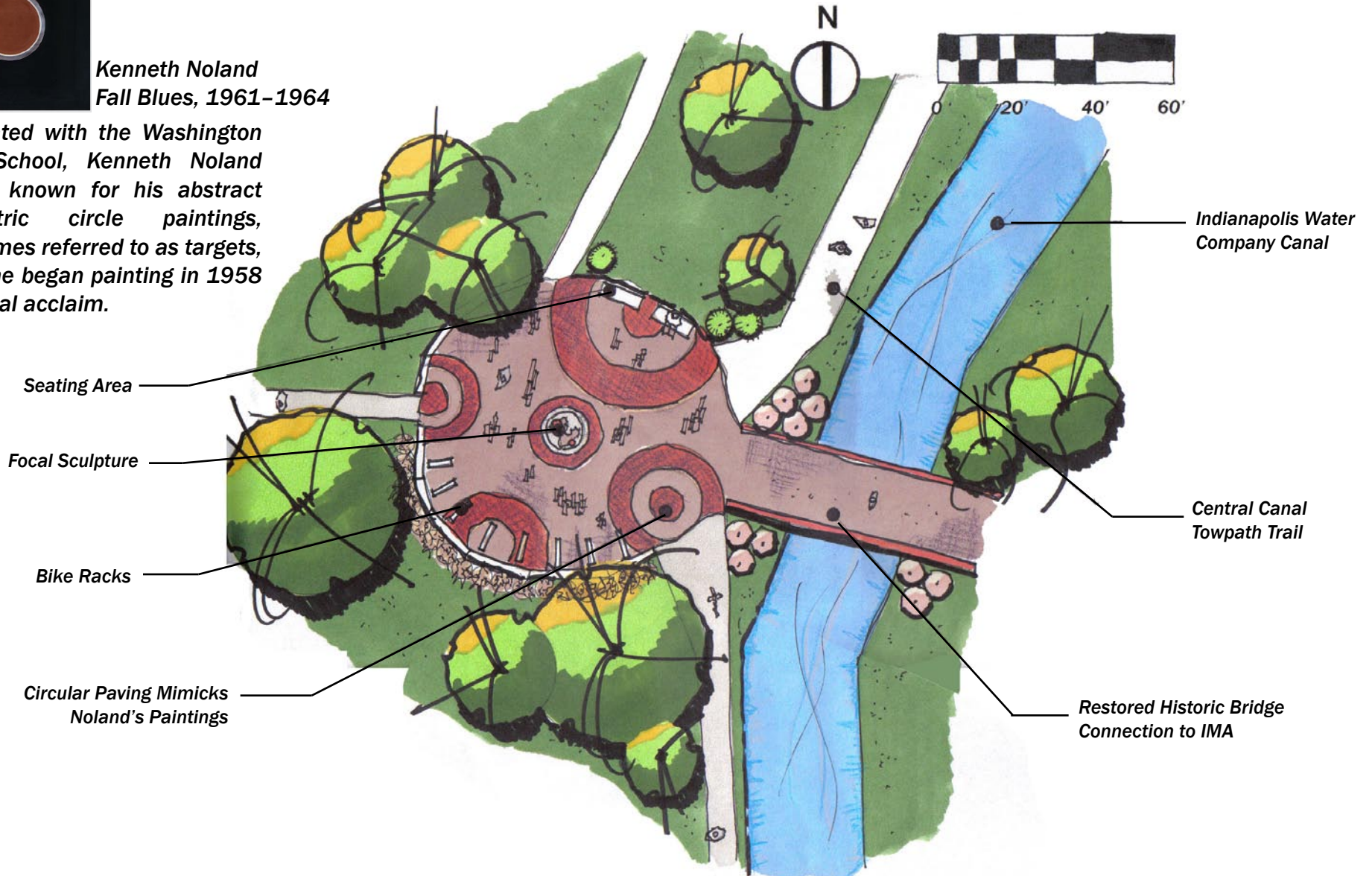


# Trailhead Plan



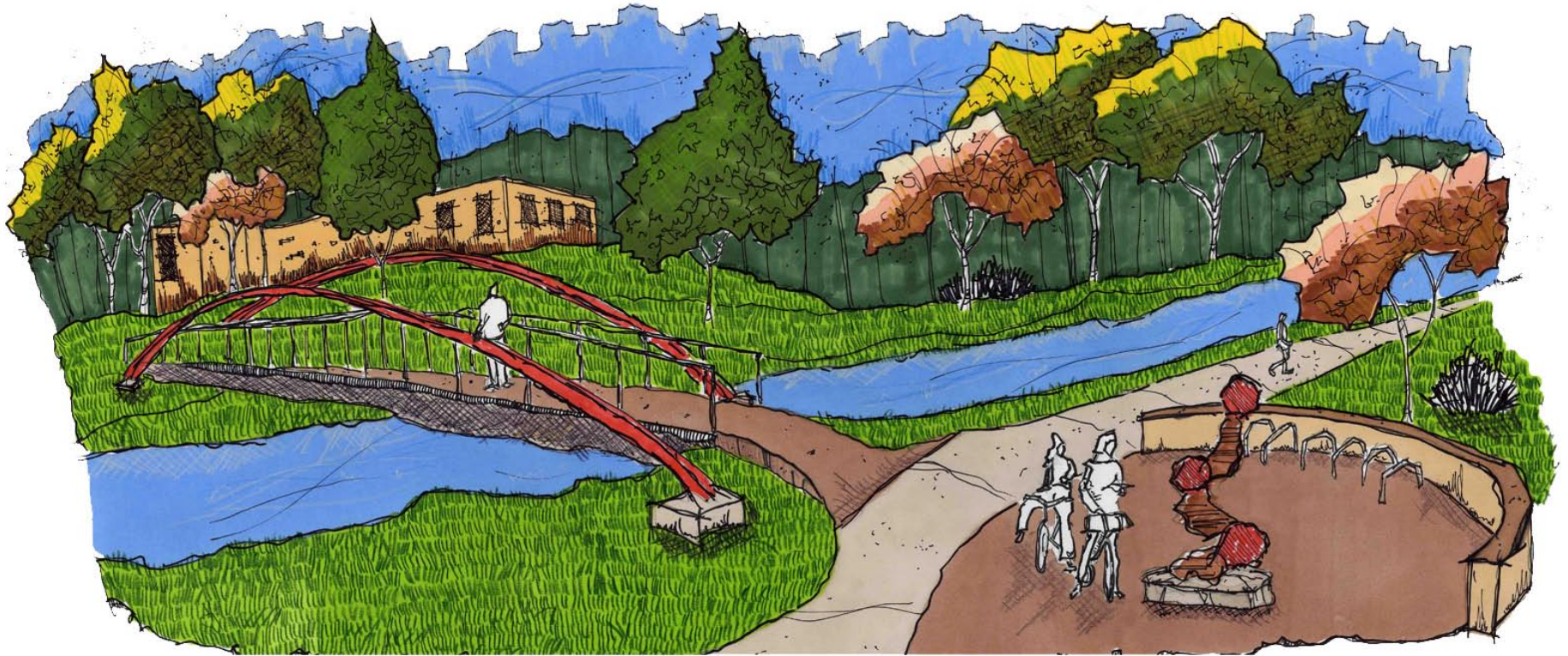
*Kenneth Noland  
Fall Blues, 1961–1964*

Associated with the Washington Color School, Kenneth Noland is well known for his abstract concentric circle paintings, sometimes referred to as targets, which he began painting in 1958 to critical acclaim.





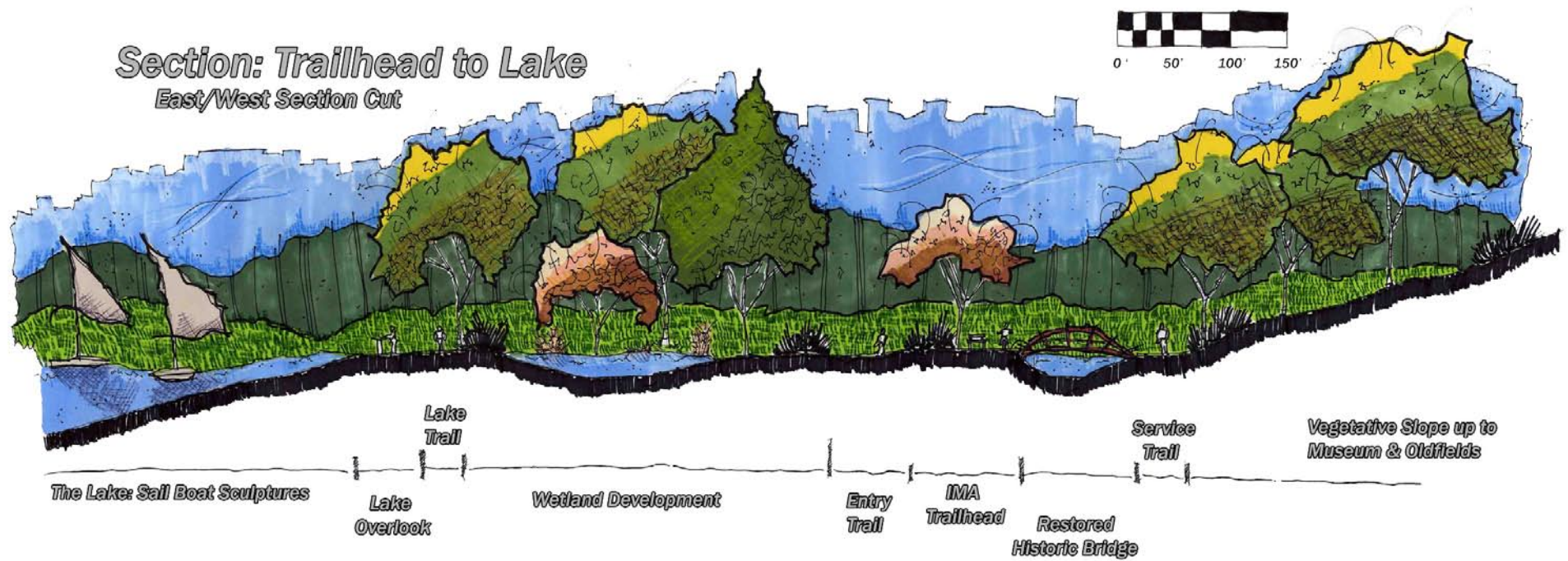
## Trailhead Perspective



*IMA Trailhead & Towpath Looking South*



# Trailhead Section



## Conclusion

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*This project has been a tremendous exploration in the world of art and its future role in modern landscapes. The Indianapolis Museum of Art - Art & Nature Park contains a rich palette of opportunities for education and preservation efforts that not only will help the museum continue to evolve and grow, but gives a deeper identity to the neighboring communities and institutions. The spaces and experiences created in the Art & Nature Park will help people develop their mental eye, culture, and social lives. The art installations and natural ecology exist to teach and inform while acting as a hub for artisans and designers to experiment and contemplate. Overall this project has provided a vast array of ideas and experiences in such a unique setting that really tries to erase the professional and social lines between artists, designers, and the public. "Many barriers need to be broken down between art and the public ... and that was the very thing this venture was designed to achieve" (Miles 155)*



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